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**NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC AND THE METROPOLITAN OPERA JOIN
INAUGURAL “MAKE MUSIC NEW YORK” FESTIVAL**
Free concert at Lincoln Center is highlight of city-wide, participatory festival

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 16, 2007 – A free, two-hour concert by singers from The Metropolitan Opera and musicians from the New York Philharmonic will highlight the debut of Make Music New York, a city-wide celebration taking place on Thursday, June 21, 2007, the first day of summer. The recital will take place from noon until 2 PM at the Josie Robertson Plaza/Midsummer Night Swing Stage at Lincoln Center, providing New Yorkers with a unique opportunity to experience the artistry of these two world-class ensembles in a single event.

Singers and a pianist from the Metropolitan Opera will open the program with highlights from the Met's upcoming 2007-08 season. Details on performers and repertoire will be announced in the coming weeks.

Musicians from the New York Philharmonic will then perform a pair of chamber works: New York-based composer Steven Gerber's *Spirituals*, for clarinet and string quartet; and Mozart's String Quartet in C major, K. 465, "Dissonance." The string quartet will consist of Assistant Concertmaster Michelle Kim and Minyoung Chang, violins; Robert Rinehart, viola; and Eileen Moon, cello. For *Spirituals*, the quartet will be joined by clarinetist Pascual Martinez Forteza. Composed in 2002, *Spirituals* references eleven traditional spirituals in a variety of compositional styles; a string orchestra version of the work will be issued later this year on the Arabesque label.

New York Philharmonic President and Executive Director Zarin Mehta said, "As New York City's hometown band, we are always looking for additional ways to bring our music and musicians to a wider audience. This festival provides a wonderful opportunity for the Philharmonic to literally get out into the world to play for all New Yorkers."

ABOUT MAKE MUSIC NEW YORK

Make Music New York is a citywide music festival presenting hundreds of free concerts in public spaces on the first day of summer, June 21. It encompasses virtually every style and genre, reflecting the unparalleled richness of the city's musical life. For one day, parks, plazas, sidewalks, community gardens, and other accessible locations throughout all five boroughs will become informal musical stages, dance floors, and social meeting points. Amateur musicians will have the opportunity to perform publicly for the biggest crowds of their lives, and professionals will be able to attract new

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audiences. Best of all, New Yorkers throughout the city will be able to come out from under their headphones and experience the joy of live music making.

The sheer variety of offerings – and sites – is remarkable. Chamber pop at the Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, Sacred Harp singers on the Lower East Side, Hip-hop at Adam Clayton Powell Plaza in Harlem, Tuvan throat singers and teenage tap dancers in Chelsea, a 75-member ensemble playing Terry Riley’s *In C* on Cornelia Street, funk and reggae in Jamaica, indie rock on Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg, blues at the ferry terminal in Staten Island, an all-female Latin ensemble at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, bluegrass on the Brooklyn Bridge: these are among the hundreds of free concerts organized by Make Music New York on June 21. A preliminary list of participating artists and concert sites can be found at www.makemusicny.org/listings.php.

The first “Fête de la Musique” was held in France in 1982, and ever since, it has been celebrated annually on streets and sidewalks across the country, with tens of thousands of performers and millions of listeners. Today, more than 300 cities around the world, from Buenos Aires to Rome, from Dakar to Phnom Penh, celebrate their own “Make Music” events on June 21st.

ABOUT THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC

Founded in 1842, the New York Philharmonic is the oldest symphony orchestra in the United States and one of the oldest in the world. Since its inception, the Philharmonic has played a leading role in American musical life, championing the new music of its time — from Dvořák to John Adams — and reaching out to audiences with touring that began in 1882; recordings beginning in 1917; radio broadcasts since 1922 (now also available on the Orchestra’s Website, nyphil.org); and more recently, new media, including concert downloads on iTunes and podcasts. Throughout the Philharmonic’s history, the world’s great artists and conductors have appeared on its stage, and have included Gustav Mahler, Arturo Toscanini, Bruno Walter, Leonard Bernstein, Pierre Boulez, Zubin Mehta, Kurt Masur, and Lorin Maazel, who became Music Director in September 2002, 60 years after making his debut with the Orchestra in New York.

ABOUT THE METROPOLITAN OPERA

Founded in 1883, the Metropolitan Opera is the largest performing arts organization in the United States and one of the premier opera companies in the world. The Met is a vibrant home for the most creative and talented artists working in the multidisciplinary field of opera, including singers, conductors, composers, orchestra musicians, stage directors, designers, visual artists, choreographers, and dancers from around the world. Known as a venue for the world’s great voices for well over a century, since 1976 the Met has been under the musical direction of James Levine, who has created one of opera’s finest orchestras and choruses. Peter Gelb, the Met’s new general manager, has embarked on a program to significantly increase the number of new productions, which will feature the Met debuts of the world’s most imaginative directors, to further elevate the company’s theatrical standards and to secure increased commitments from the world’s greatest singers.