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**INAUGURAL “MAKE MUSIC NEW YORK” FESTIVAL TO OFFER
HUNDREDS OF FREE CONCERTS IN PUBLIC SPACES ON JUNE 21**
New York Philharmonic and The Metropolitan Opera join city-wide celebration

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. For the second half of the program, musicians from the New York Philharmonic will perform Mozart’s String Quartet in C major, K. 465, “Dissonance,” and New York-based composer Steven Gerber’s *Spirituals*, for clarinet and string quartet. The string quartet will consist of Assistant Concertmaster Michelle Kim and Minyoung Chang, violins; Robert Rinehart, viola; and Eileen Moon, cello, joined by clarinetist Pascual Martinez Forteza for *Spirituals*. Composed in 2002, *Spirituals* references eleven traditional spirituals in a variety of compositional styles.

In addition to the Lincoln Center event, hundreds of free Make Music New York concerts will take place in public spaces on June 21. 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 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. MMNY encompasses virtually every style and genre, reflecting the unparalleled richness of the city’s musical life.

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 St., 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 concerts organized by Make Music New York on June 21 – and all of them are free. A preliminary list of participating artists and sites can be found at www.makemusicny.org/2007-program.php.

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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 340 cities around the world, from Buenos Aires to Rome, from Dakar to Phnom Penh, celebrate their own “Make Music” events on June 21st.

While Make Music New York events will take place in hundreds of locations, certain sites are hosting large-scale concerts, presenting multiple artists over a period of hours. Like Make Music New York as a whole, these festivals-within-a-festival span a wide range of musical styles; they are listed below by borough and location.

Manhattan

Harlem State Office Building Plaza, West 125th St. & Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd.:

Hip-hop/R&B

11:30 AM – 2:00 PM: “Lunchtime funk.” The Harlem Experience presents renowned band The Slam Clinic and special guests TBA.

5:00 PM – 9:00 PM: “Afterwork Jam.” With Myoshi, former host of the TV show “The BET J List,” R&B artist Jeff Redd, HottestPoets.com’s Spusic and others.

West 125th St. and Frederick Douglass Blvd.: Hip-hop/R&B

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM. Skywalker Entertainment. Artists include Black Rob, Drag-on, Profess, Urbane, P. Haze, Imani, Prota-J, Sean Blaze, Lix Pro. “All artists represent hip-hop and R&B in its pure form and express positivity without sacrificing the ability to move a crowd.”

5:00 PM - 10:00 PM. “Wabi Sabi.” Artists include Nu Millenium Soul A Cappella, Lanar and The Love Not Limited Singers performing a tribute to Barry White; Gezele Portwood of Gypsy Moon Productions; and rap activist Shakka.

St. Peter’s Church, outdoors at Citigroup Plaza, 53rd St. and Lexington Ave.: Jazz

12:30 PM – 3:30 PM: “Jazz on the Plaza,” presented by Grand Central Partnership-Midtown Arts Common, plus JVC Jazz Festival/*Downbeat*. Featuring Berklee College of Music JVC Jazz Fest Ensemble; Eastman Jazz Performance Workshop – Honors Unit; William Paterson Jazz Sextet.

Pier 17, South St. Seaport: Indie rock

ASCAP/*Filter* magazine showcase. Details tba.

Brooklyn:

Plaza at Brooklyn Borough Hall (209 Joralemon St.): Classical, “Barbershop,” Hip-hop

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM: Bargemusic Players will perform Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons” with special guest appearances by Olga Bloom and Mark Peskanov.

5 PM – 7 PM: Sweet Adelines of Brooklyn, all-women’s four-part *a cappella* barbershop harmony; Tanya Morgan presented in conjunction with the Brooklyn Hip-hop Festival, plus an additional act tba.

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Bedford Avenue, North 4th St. to North 10th St., Williamsburg: Rock, Folk, Eclectic

1 PM – 10 PM (street closed from 6 PM to 10 PM): More than 30 acts, including Cheeseburger and Best Friends (presented by JellyNYC), plus Black Peter Group, Bling Kong, Bombers, Dead By Choice, Millsted, Mobile Oxygen Unit, Screaming Females, The Shemps, Shorebirds, and Volunteers.

Queens:

Main stages at 165th St. and Jamaica Ave., York College, plus smaller stages from Sutphin Blvd. to 165th St.: Various genres

2 PM – 7 PM: “Jamaica Funk Style.” Musical genres and artists include:

Reggae: Benny Bwoy, Lynx, Trilogee, 7:30, and Alibre.

Jazz: Jeff Harris

Hip-hop: Fella, Dolarz, Little Rose

R&B & Gospel: 4 Ron

Reggaeton: Vez, KNY. Plus dance ensembles, local school bands, and a fashion show.

Queens Library - Flushing Branch, 41-17 Main St.

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM: Ensembles presented by CBA Culture & Arts Center perform Chinese music, dance, opera, and magic.

Staten Island:

Staten Island Fishing Pier: Folk, Indie rock

5 PM – 8 PM: Four bands: Therina Bella, David Dragov, Hum, and The John.

Smaller sites are also hosting notable events. A selection of these follow, listed by genre.

CLASSICAL/CHORAL/NEW MUSIC

Composers Collaborative: Cornelia St. 6 PM – 8 PM. Some 75 musicians perform American composer Terry Riley’s open-score masterpiece *In C*, playing on a diverse array of instruments. Performers include Jenny Lin on toy piano, Jed Distler and Kathleen Supove on piano.

New York Consort of Viols: West Side Community Garden, W. 90th St. and Columbus, 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM. The New York Consort of Viols demonstrates “The Sweet Power of Musicke” with music and readings from Shakespeare’s time (with John Genke, actor).

Williamsburg / Greenpoint Community Orchestra: Father Jerzy Popieluszko Square (near McCarren Park Pool), 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM. An “open source” volunteer orchestra, formed in 2006, performs in the open air.

Greg Zuber: 55 Water St. Plaza, 12:00 PM – 1:45 PM. Greg Zuber, Principal Percussionist with the Metropolitan Opera, presents a recital of contemporary classical music by Alejandro Vinaso Khan, Hsueh-Yung Shen, Jacob Druckman, Wayne Peterson, Joseph Schwantner, and Arvo Pärt.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

F&B Block Association: Putnam Ave. between Franklin Ave. and Bedford Ave., Fort Greene, 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Local performers play blues, Hip-hop, Caribbean steel band music, and reggae.

Orfeo Duo: Broadway Presbyterian Church, W. 114th and Broadway, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Broadway Community Inc, a soup kitchen and job training center, will host a jam session outside Broadway Presbyterian Church. Music Director Mairi Gearey and the Orfeo Duo, a local violin/piano duo, will lead the way, and pass out kazoos to anyone who wants to participate.

ELECTRONC/EXPERIMENTAL

Eyebeam: Eyebeam, 540 W. 21st St., 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM. Resident artists, fellows, and staff from Eyebeam, an art & technology center in New York, will improvise in front of the building using DIY electronic and digital devices.

LEMURplex: 461 Third Ave., Brooklyn, 12:00 PM – 9:00 PM. LEMURplex is a new Brooklyn performance/gallery/teaching space featuring robotic musical instruments and cutting-edge installations by LEMUR (League of Electronic Musical Urban Robots), among others.

New York Society for Acoustic Ecology: Stuyvesant Cove Park, 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM. Solar One hosts a stage for Make Music NY with solar-powered, site specific sound performance from Andrea Williams of the New York Society for Acoustic Ecology, and others tba.

HIP-HOP/FUNK/R&B

Lizz Wright: MetroTech Commons lawn, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM. BAM's Rhythm & Blues Festival at MetroTech continues with Lizz Wright, who “delivers spun gold, stir(ring) jazz, gospel, and Rhythm-and-Blues into a reflective, flowing style that elongates songs into prayerful meditations...”

Papoose and Gravy: Record Express, 523 Fulton St., 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM. Record Express hosts Bed-Stuy’s Papoose (2005 UMA’S “Underground Artist of the Year”) and rising Brooklyn rapper Gravy with a live DJ outside the store.

Ralph McDaniels: Tobacco Warehouse, Fulton Ferry State Park. Celebrate the longest day of the year with the Brooklyn Hip Hop Festival, as Uncle Ralph plays favorite old-school and new-school Hip-hop videos.

JAZZ/LATIN/CARIBBEAN

American Tap Dance Foundation: W. 27th St. and Seventh Ave. (SW corner), 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Four members of the Tap City Youth Ensemble, a group of 44 advanced tap dancers ages 12-19, will bring rhythm tap to the streets of New York where this art form began.

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The Eternal Buzz Brass Band: Jackson Square Park, Greenwich Ave. and Horatio St., 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Led by drummer/composer Geoff Mann, and including members of Antibalas, the Eternal Buzz weaves together composition, improvisation and grooves in a way that's new, while still paying homage to the great musics of the past.

Los Hermanos Colon: Levitz, 2480 Grand Concourse, The Bronx, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. The renowned brothers offer the very best of Salsa music, romantic and danceable, in English and Spanish.

Queen Topsy: Staten Island Ferry Terminal, St George, Staten Island, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Combo plays blues and jazz, standards and originals.

Retumba!: Van Cortlandt Park, Broadway and W. 246th St., 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM. Barefoot dancing in the park with Retumba!, an all-female ensemble playing music from Puerto Rico, Cuba and more.

RELIGIOUS

Central Baptist Church Choir: Central Baptist Church, 166 W. 92nd St., 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. World-renowned gospel choir (seen on NBC Today Show) will perform on the steps of the Central Baptist Church.

Pabloirie: Herbert Von King Park, Lafayette Ave. and Marcy Ave., Brooklyn, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Roots Reggae.

Sacred Harp Singers: 2nd Avenue F/V Subway Entrance, 118 E. 118th St., 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. From the American South, participatory hymn singing that traces its roots back to the colonial era.

ROCK/FOLK/POP

Bill Popp & The Tapes: Washington Square Park (Teen Plaza), 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Bill Popp and the Tapes are the self-described “kings of Britpop.”

Brookland: Greenwood Cemetery, 37th St. and Fort Hamilton Pkwy., 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM. “Equal parts old-timey jangle and smartypants esoterica...on guitar, banjo, melodica and ukelele.”

Frances: Le Petit Versailles, 346 E. Houston St., 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Pop music that “floats between indie rock, clanging waltzes, and orchestral explosions.”

Haunted Posse: Marble Cemetery, 41 1/2 Second Ave. between 2nd and 3rd St.s, 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM. This unusual, somewhat secret cemetery is rarely open. It will be visited by a “procession of ghostly sea banshees performing spooky, enchanting, operatic metal.”

Sonic Uke: 130 W. 10th St., 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM. Humorous originals and sing-a-long favorites on ukulele, on the stoop of the original Almanac House, one-time home to Woody Guthrie.

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WORLD/TRADITIONAL

AbyaYala Choir: Abe Lebewohl Park, 2nd Ave. and 10th St., 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. The first large-scale performance of the newly-formed AbyaYala Choir, giving New Yorkers a rare chance to hear a musical performance in Quechua, one of the primary languages of the Andes.

Alash Ensemble: Rubin Museum of Art, 150 West 17th St., 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM. The award-winning Alash Ensemble specialize in the unique and startling vocal technique of Tuvan throat singing, a genre of indigenous music that is almost never witnessed in the United States.

Bonga: Union Square, West side, 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Gaston Jean-Baptiste, known as “Bonga” is a noted virtuoso of traditional Haitian drum, dance and song.

M Shanghai String Band: Brooklyn Bridge, 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM. “Timeless original songs played with a sense of abandon, a new take on the Americana genre.”

YOUNG MUSICIANS

82nd St. Academics Afterschool Program: Community United Methodist Church, 81-10 35th Ave., Jackson Heights, Queens, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Performances by children in the 82nd St. Academics afterschool program.

Approaching Storm: Hands and Heart Garden, New Lots Ave. and Alabama Ave., East New York, 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM. Featuring the young musicians of the “Approaching Storm” marching band.

DayJams Alumni - Rock Music Day Camp for Kids 9-15: Soho Square, Sixth Ave. at Spring St., 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Alumni bands from DayJams, the original Rock Music Day Camp for kids ages 9-15.

Koolkidz: City Hall Subway Station Entrance, Broadway and Murray St., 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM. A children’s performance group from the Fort Greene Music School who sing, dance, and rap original songs from their CD.

PS 130 Choir: Children’s Museum of the Arts, 182 Lafayette St., 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM.

The Children’s Concert: A Community Affair: Dag Hammarskjold Park, E. 47th St. and 1st Ave., 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Storytailors presents a children's concert featuring the BMCC (CUNY) Choruses (with children from The Family School and the Vanderbilt YMCA), Steve “the Whistler” Herbst, and “The Travels of Punchinello” by Hands On!, plus a milkshake give-away.

The West Side Arts Coalition: The Broadway Mall Community Center, 96th St. and Broadway, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. A classical recital by young musicians, in the middle of Broadway.

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