

Make Music
New York!



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAKE MUSIC NEW YORK 2009

MORE THAN 850 FREE CONCERTS
IN 300+ OUTDOOR, PUBLIC LOCATIONS
ON SUNDAY, JUNE 21, THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER

NEW THIS YEAR: "MASS APPEAL" UNLEASHES THE POWER OF
MASSED SINGLE INSTRUMENTS, ALL OVER NYC

Musicians to greet each other with winning "musical handshake"

PUNK ISLAND RETURNS: 70 BANDS ON GOVERNORS ISLAND

"The streets are alive with the sound of music in this vibrant event" – *The New York Times*

New York, NY – **Make Music New York**, described by city officials as "one of the largest musical events in the city's history," is back for a third year of free concerts in public spaces throughout the five boroughs of New York City, all on the first day of summer. On Sunday, June 21, from 11 in the morning until 10 at night, musicians of all ages and musical persuasions — from Hip hop to opera, Latin jazz to punk rock — will perform on streets, sidewalks, stoops, plazas, cemeteries, parks and gardens. Writes *The New York Times*, "You might hear a string quartet on one block and a mariachi band on the next."

Institutions hosting or presenting Make Music New York 2009 concerts include the **Brooklyn Museum, Carnegie Hall, Central Park SummerStage, Jazz Gallery, Jazzmobile, Queens Museum of Art, and Symphony Space**. Noted performers include jazz pianist **Randy Weston**, French tennis player-turned-pop star **Yannick Noah**, **Arturo O'Farrill's Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra**, and punk legends **Reagan Youth**, with further highlights to be announced.

This year, MMNY's new **Mass Appeal** program gives New Yorkers without groups of their own a chance to take part in the music-making, by bringing together hundreds of musicians

[MORE]

MAKE MUSIC NEW YORK 2009 – page 2

to play pieces written for single types of instruments. Some twenty ensembles have formed, with massed groups of the following instruments:

- Accordions
- Acoustic guitars
- Bagpipes
- Cellos
- Circuit benders
- Clarinets
- Flutes
- French horns
- Glockenspiels
- Harmonicas
- Megaphones
- Pianos
- Samba drummers
- Saxophones
- Sing-alongs (songs of Umm Kulthum)
- Trombones
- Ukuleles
- Veenas
- Violins
- Waterphones

After performing throughout the city, Mass Appeal groups will meet for an evening jam session at the Rumsey Playfield in Central Park, open to the public. **David Amram** will conduct the assembled instruments, and musicians will mingle with each other, improvising on a **Musical Handshake** – a two-phrase, call-and-response musical greeting – chosen in a competition sponsored by MMNY. This year’s handshake was written by singer/harpist **Elissa Weiss**, who based the motif on a birdsong she heard last summer. It is available on the MMNY website, at makemusicny.org/handshake.pdf.

“Make Music New York is a great example of why New York is one of the world’s cultural capitals,” says **Mayor Michael Bloomberg**. “Artistic talent – and a great appreciation of it – can be found overflowing the streets in every neighborhood in all five boroughs. With performances from individual amateurs to world-class ensembles, Make Music New York gives all of our residents and visitors a chance to experience the City’s diverse musical riches in their own backyards – or explore the sights and sounds of other neighborhoods.” As always, MMNY takes place simultaneously with similar festivities in more than 300 cities around the world. Further details can be found at makemusicny.org.

Highlights include:

■ In tribute to the late Ghanaian drummer Kofi Ghanaba, legendary jazz pianist **Randy Weston** will perform as part of a day-long block party presented by the Jazz Gallery. The concert takes place at the western end of Dominick St. (Varick and Hudson), 2 – 7pm.

■ For the second year, Governors Island will be “**Punk Island**,” with thirteen stages of music and no volume restrictions! Listeners will be able to reach the island via ferry, leaving from the Battery Maritime Building (adjacent to the Staten Island Ferry terminal). Bands include **Reagan Youth**, **Blanks 77**, **Electric Frankenstein**, and over 70 more. 11am – 5pm.

■ **186 bands** will perform on the sidewalks of Greenpoint, Williamsburg, and Bushwick, including local favorites **Lowry**, **Casey Shea Band**, **Cinema**, **Cinema**, **Dinosaur Feathers**, **powwow!**, **Renminbi**, and **Sigmund Droid**. Venues include 3rd Ward, Public Assembly, and

[MORE]

Matchless. 11am - 10pm

■ **Central Park SummerStage** will join the global Francophone community in celebrating chanson française (French song) with a line-up representing the diversity of French contemporary music: **Yannick Noah, Coralie Clément, and Mayra Andrade**. Presented in association with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy. 3 - 7pm.

■ As part of Mass Appeal, 80 trombones, organ, and soprano will take over the ramps of the Guggenheim Museum for the NY premiere of spatial composer **Henry Brant's** *Orbits*, co-presented by **Works & Process at the Guggenheim**. Audiences gather in the rotunda below, with conductor Neely Bruce and a large contingent of the trombone community above. (This is the only MMNY event taking place indoors.) 7:30pm and 8:30pm.

■ **Arturo O’Farrill’s Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra** will perform outside its home venue of **Symphony Space**, at a Latin jazz block party on W. 95th St and Broadway. 12 - 5pm.

Other events of interest:

● **Carnegie Hall** presents Folklore Urbano outside the **Brooklyn Museum** (200 Eastern Parkway), a high-energy Columbian music ensemble led by pianist, composer, and arranger Pablo Mayor. 2 -4 pm.

● Six composer/inventors create an **Interactive Music Festival** on the Coney Island Boardwalk, presented by Manhattan New Music Project, and curated by David Simons. With Joshua Fried’s shoes and steering wheel, John Morton’s altered music boxes, Dafna Naphtali’s computer-altered vocals, Jane Rigler’s electronic flute, David Simons’s Theremin sampler, and Zemi Taylor Kuffner's robot-playing Gamelan. 3 - 6pm.

● **American Opera Projects** presents “The Voice of Brooklyn: Opera and Song from the People's Republic”, with composers Michael Rose, Daniel Felsenfeld, and Jennifer Griffith, and fellow opera companies Rhymes With Opera and Opera On Tap. Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn, 12 - 4pm.

● MMNY expands into the Bronx, with indie rock bands on stage at Orchard Beach (presented by Bronx Underground), jazz at the Bronx Museum of Art (one of three Jazzmobile concerts for MMNY), and hip-hop throughout.

● Nivedita ShivRaj leads six players on the veena, an ancient multi-stringed instrument from South India, hosted by Flushing Town Hall at 6 pm.

These are only a few of the hundreds of concerts taking place on June 21. In all five boroughs, from Orchard Beach in the Bronx down to the south shore of Staten Island, musicians of all kinds will be taking to the streets to perform for passerby, turning New York

into a giant party – a chance for people to come out from under their headphones to listen, sing, and dance with their neighbors!

A complete listing of events can be found at the website of MMNY's exclusive online media partner, **Time Out New York**. At www.timeoutnewyork.com/makemusic, interested music lovers can browse festival events by starting time, genre, type of venue, and neighborhood to tailor a fascinating itinerary for the day. **Metro New York**, the festival's exclusive print partner, will produce a complete program to be distributed at concert locations, and in the two weeks leading up to the event. Or, you can simply head down the street and follow your ears!

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