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Contact: Elizabeth Ferguson  
510/316-3061  
[eferguson@makemusicny.org](mailto:eferguson@makemusicny.org)  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **BREAKING NEWS!**

**JAZZ LEGEND RANDY WESTON'S "DIVINE DRUMMERS"**  
**CRASH A WEDDING PARTY! AND MORE AFTER-HOURS FUN**  
**GRAND PIANOS FOR EVERYONE ON CORNELIA STREET**  
**ALL ON SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2009: FIRST DAY OF SUMMER**

New York, NY – The third annual **Make Music New York** festival draws near, offering more than 860 concerts in public, outdoor locations throughout the five boroughs of the city, all on Sunday, June 21, the first day of summer. Previously announced highlights include MMNY's new **Mass Appeal** program, in which passers-by will be greeted by assembled groups of accordions, bagpipes, clarinets, megaphones, trombones, ukuleles, and fourteen other instruments; **Punk Island** (on Governors Island), with 70+ bands and no volume restrictions; a set by **Arturo O'Farrill's Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra** at a block party outside **Symphony Space** (W. 95th St and Broadway); and an appearance by French tennis-star-turned-pop-singer **Yannick Noah** at Central Park SummerStage. The press release at [www.makemusicny.org/MMNYpresrel.5.26.09.pdf](http://www.makemusicny.org/MMNYpresrel.5.26.09.pdf) provides more detailed information, and all the details are on-line at [www.timeoutnewyork.com/makemusic](http://www.timeoutnewyork.com/makemusic).

This just in: Jazz legend **Randy Weston** and friends will pay tribute to a legendary Ghanaian percussionist in a program titled "Kofi Ghanaba: Memorial to the Divine Drummer." Special guests include noted percussionists **Obo Addy** and **Kwaku Martin Obeng**. The performance, at Dominick and Hudson Streets in Manhattan, highlights an all-day block party presented by the Jazz Gallery and by Jazzmobile, which kicks off its 45th anniversary season with the event. 2 - 7pm

A late addition to this year's Make Music New York is the **Piano Block Party**, taking place on Cornelia Street in the West Village. Interested players can sign up for the **Piano Open Mic** (3 - 5pm), or join in an open group performance, led by Jed Distler and Celia Cooke of Composer's Collaborative. From 5-8 pm, hear the New York premiere of *Canto Ostinato* for four pianos by the Dutch minimalist Simeon ten Holt, all outdoors in the middle of Cornelia Street.

If all-day music performances are not enough, there are also **several afterparties**. The musicians of "Mass Appeal" come together at the end of the day in Central Park's Rumsey Playfield to greet each other and begin improvisational conversations. Conducted by renowned composer **David Amram**, musicians and audiences form an enormous ensemble to harmoniously improvise on this year's Musical Handshake melody and a massive 12-bar blues. Mass Appealers are especially invited, and audiences encouraged to attend and participate. 8 - 10pm

Fans of jazz, funk, and hip hop have the unique opportunity to **"crash" a wedding** at L'Orange Bleue restaurant in SoHo (430 Broome St). Beginning at 10 pm, the bride and groom open up their own wedding reception to the public, featuring the Marc Ayza Group.

The **Bagpipe Parade in Staten Island** culminates in an afterparty at Steiney's (3 Hyatt St). Bagpipers from around the city begin their sidewalk parade at 5:30 along Bay Street, as part of MMNY's **Mass Appeal** program.

Public Assembly in Williamsburg (70 N. 6th Street at Wythe) will boast **two afterparties**. Capping a full day of indie rock bands in front of the club, Sid and Buddy's Rock and Roll Karaoke will offer participatory hijinks in the front room, while an electro dance party with special guest DJs and live female drummers will tear the roof off the venue's back room until the wee hours.

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the previously announced **Musical Instrument Petting Zoo** has been postponed until next year's Make Music New York. The Petting Zoo will return to MMNY in 2010.

The events noted above 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 passers-by, 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](http://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, has produced 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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