



May 21, 2010
Contact: Aaron Friedman
646/283-4154
aaron@makemusicny.org
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UPDATE: MAKE MUSIC NEW YORK TOPS 1,000 FREE CONCERTS ON JUNE 21

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED:

**SUMMERSTAGE PRESENTS PRELUDE CONCERT (6/20)
WITH SALIF KEITA, TABOU COMBO, AND LO'JO**

**PLAY ME, I'M YOURS: 60 PIANOS
ON THE STREETS OF NYC**

TAKE YOUR MUSICIAN TO SCHOOL DAY

"Gotham's 11-hour festival of free music, from classical to bluegrass to rap" – *Time Out NY*

Make Music New York, described by city officials as "one of the largest musical events in the city's history," has reached an important milestone: **more than 1,000 free concerts** are lined up for this year's festival, which takes place in public spaces throughout New York City on Monday, June 21, the first day of summer. Writes *The New York Times*, "The streets are alive with the sound of music in this vibrant event, where you can stroll around the city and hear punk bands, hip-hop, opera, string quartets and mariachi echoing throughout the boroughs." Live music will ring out in streets, sidewalks, stoops, plazas, cemeteries, parks and gardens. A full concert schedule will be posted on May 28 at www.makemusicny.org.

Of the hundreds of cities around the world that celebrate their own "Make Music" events, NYC stands alone for the sheer abundance of music on June 21. Only in France, where the *Fête de la Musique* began, will there be as many concerts for listeners to enjoy. In recognition of the festival's origins, **Central Park Summerstage** will present a four-hour prelude concert of Francophone artists on Sunday, June 20 (3 – 7 pm) with performances from Malian pop icon **Salif Keita**, Haiti's legendary **Tabou Combo**, and the innovative Parisian folk/world music collective **Lo'Jo**. The concert is presented in association with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, with additional support from the French Bureau Export. Salif Keita, known as "the golden voice of Africa," is one of the continent's most renowned vocalists. Collaborating with musicians such as Carlos Santana, Wayne Shorter, and Joe Zawinul, Keita became the first

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African bandleader to earn a Grammy nomination, leading to many more. Tabou Combo, together for 42 years, is widely regarded as the ambassador of Haiti's national dance music genre known as *Compas* (con-pa). The band's masterful compositions and undulating rhythms have propelled them to international prominence and worldwide performances. Lo'Jo is a sextet that builds on France's popular art form of street busking to reflect the nation's diverse cultures, creating a modern context for traditional musical genres by incorporating a variety of international grooves. Summerstage, a program of the nonprofit City Parks Foundation (CPF), celebrates its 25th anniversary this season.

One of the most remarkable new events in Make Music New York 2010 is called **Play Me, I'm Yours**. Sing For Hope, a public service organization for artists, is installing 60 pianos in parks and public spaces throughout the city to be available to all who pass by from June 21 to July 5. These "street pianos" are part of a worldwide public art project by British artist Luke Jerram. Opening events will take place on June 21 in conjunction with MMNY; closing concerts, organized by Sing for Hope, will take place on July 5. New Yorkers will be invited to post photos and videos of their local *Play Me, I'm Yours* street pianos on a dedicated website, www.nycstreetpianos.com. The site also features maps with piano locations and other information about the project. Says pop star Alicia Keys, "This summer, Sing for Hope will create a beautiful and worthy moment for our city by bringing the *Play Me, I'm Yours* 'street pianos' to our city's parks and public spaces. It's things like this that make me extra proud to be a New Yorker, and the endless possibilities represented in these streets."

Also new for 2010: **Take Your Musician To School Day**. With June 21st falling on a school day this year, MMNY is launching a new music education program for parents and students to perform with each other outside public school buildings. So far, 48 schools have registered to participate, with musical activities led by parents, teachers, administrators, or all three. Concerts are in a range of genres, celebrating music education and cultural diversity. Enrollment is still underway for this program; musicians or administrators who want to bring music to their schools can sign up at www.makemusicny.org/schools.

Further information on Make Music New York 2010, including details on Punk Island, Play Hard, Mass Appeal, and other special programs, is available at: www.makemusicny.org/MMNY-presrel-4.15.10.pdf.

Major support for Make Music New York 2010 is provided by Bloomberg LP, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy. Media partners include Metro New York, Time Out New York, and WNYC.

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