



April 14, 2011  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MAKE MUSIC NEW YORK TURNS FIVE**  
**MORE THAN 1,000 FREE CONCERTS EXPECTED**  
**ON THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER, JUNE 21, 2011**  
**RETURN OF THE CENTRAL PARK ROWBOAT CONCERTS,**  
**PUNK ISLAND, MASS APPEAL, AND MORE**  
**FESTIVAL BEGINS AT DAWN WITH YOKO ONO'S *SECRET PIECE***  
**CO-PRESENTED BY CARNEGIE HALL, FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE,**  
**JAZZMOBILE, JOE'S PUB, MILLER THEATRE, RIVER TO RIVER, OTHERS**

Every NYC musician and outdoor location invited to join — registration ends April 21st

**Make Music New York**, the largest annual musical event in the city's history, celebrates its fifth anniversary this year, offering free, outdoor, public concerts all around the city on Tuesday, June 21st, the first day of summer. This year's festival is expected to include **more than 1,000 free concerts**. Justin Davidson of *New York* magazine described MMNY as "Exuberant overkill... more than 1,000 concerts in a single eleven-hour day, including outdoor mini-recitals on painted pianos scattered around the boroughs and an ensemble of far too many accordionists." Live music of every kind – from opera to Hip-hop, world music to garage bands – will ring out in streets, sidewalks, stoops, plazas, cemeteries, parks and gardens.

Any musician, amateur or professional, young or old, is invited to take part by signing up at [www.makemusicny.org](http://www.makemusicny.org). Likewise, businesses, buildings, schools, churches, and other institutions can visit the website to offer their outdoor spaces as concert locations. A full schedule of events will be posted on the site on May 16th.

"Make Music New York has given New Yorkers five special years of music on sidewalks, parks, and plazas in all five boroughs," said Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. "This event gives New Yorkers and visitors a chance to experience the City's diverse pool of talented musicians and to explore the sights and sounds of our neighborhoods."

Make Music New York 2011 opens at dawn in Central Park with **Yoko Ono's *Secret Piece***, which calls for any number of musicians to "play a single note in the forest" until 8 am. In the afternoon comes the return of last year's surprise hit event: a concert surrounding the Central

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Park Lake with audience members in rowboats. In 2010, a sextet of percussionists played *Persephassa* by Greek avant-garde composer Iannis Xenakis; this year, New York's **MATA Festival** has commissioned Australian composer **Julian Day** to write a large-scale piece for dozens of brass instruments, to be played by the **Tilt Brass** ensemble.

MMNY 2011 also sees the return of **Punk Island**, in which more than 50 bands from every corner of the punk scene play on multiple stages on Governors Island. This year, Punk Island is organized by **ABC NO RIO**, the venerable cultural hub of NYC's punk scene. Since Governors Island is closed to the public on June 21st, the day of Make Music New York, Punk Island will take place two days earlier on Sunday, June 19th. Other returning favorites include the New Orleans-style **Second Line Jazz Parades** presented by the Hungry March Band and Jazzmobile, and **Mass Appeal**, our acclaimed series for amateur and professional musicians to join forces in huge ensembles throughout the city. Reviewing Mass Appeal concerts in 2009, *New Yorker* critic Alex Ross called them "impressive... subversive... I would never hear, see, or feel anything like it again."

**World Music** will come to the forefront of MMNY this year, with performances of 100 tablas led by master percussionist Samir Chatterjee, the New York Arabic Orchestra in Bryant Park, ten Japanese bamboo flute players led by James Nyoraku Schlefer in the West Village, West African griot musicians at Wave Hill in the Bronx, and more, all curated by Isabel Soffer/Live Sounds.

Every year, Make Music New York attracts more of the city's leading cultural organizations and venues as co-presenters. For 2011, MMNY is proud to partner with **American Opera Projects, Carnegie Hall, Central Park Summerstage, Cornelia St. Café, Darmstadt "Classics of the Avant-Garde," Friends of the High Line, Jazzmobile, Joe's Pub, MATA, Merkin Hall/Kaufman Center, Miller Theatre at Columbia University, River to River/Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Symphony Space**, and others to be announced.

This year's media partners include **Time Out New York, Metro NY, WNYC**, and **GigMaven**, a website that helps musicians and venues book, ticket and promote gigs online. MMNY 2011 marks the launch of GigMaven's new product for music festivals, which MMNY will use to handle all artist submissions and booking. GigMaven facilitates the entire booking process from start to finish, including matching tools to coordinate electricity needs and other specific criteria.

"We're excited that we have built a tool for festivals to help Make Music New York organize its booking process," said Howard Han, Founder and CEO of GigMaven. "As supporters of MMNY, we are pleased that they are our first user for our festival tool and we have opened up our community of over 10,000 artists to participate." Visit [www.gigmaven.com](http://www.gigmaven.com).

Further information on Make Music New York is available at [www.makemusicny.org](http://www.makemusicny.org).

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