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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAKE MUSIC NEW YORK RETURNS

A WORLD OF SOUND IN ONE CITY: HUNDREDS OF FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS ON FIRST DAY OF SUMMER, JUNE 21, 2012

MARITIME RITES IN THE CENTRAL PARK ROWBOATS

PUNK ISLAND IS BACK; SATIE OCCUPIES WALL ST

**CO-HOSTS INCLUDE CARNEGIE HALL, JOE'S PUB,
92ND ST. Y, FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE, CORNELIA ST. CAFÉ**

Los Angeles, Denver, Baltimore, and Santa Fe launch "Make Music" festivals this year,
joining NYC, Chicago, Pasadena, and Vancouver

Make Music New York, the largest annual musical event in the city's history, returns for the sixth year with a global assortment of free, outdoor, public concerts all around the city on Thursday, June 21, the first day of summer. Last year, **more than 1,000 concerts** were given, spanning all five boroughs, and a similar number are expected this year. Wrote *Spin* magazine, "With Make Music New York... the day literally exploded with live music, it could be heard emanating from each and every street corner."

Any musician, amateur or professional, young or old, is invited to take part by signing up at 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 14th.

This year, four new cities are launching Make Music festivals: Baltimore, Denver, Los Angeles and Santa Fe, bringing the North American total to eight as they join Chicago, Pasadena, Vancouver, and NYC. More than 450 cities in 116 countries celebrate the event on June 21st, which began in 1982 as France's *Fête de la Musique*.

"New York's musical landscape is as vibrant and diverse as the people who walk our City's streets," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "This summer, we are thrilled that the Make Music New York festival will bring artists from around the world for free public performances across the five

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boroughs. I once again invite all New Yorkers to join in this popular celebration of music and community.”

Make Music New York 2012 brings an exciting selection of new events and returning favorites. Every year brings large-scale spectacles as well as street-corner concerts, and 2012 is no exception.

Once again, as in 2010 and ‘11, listeners will have the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty and unique acoustic properties of Central Park Lake as MMNY presents the **NY premiere** of composer **Alvin Curran’s *Maritime Rites***, performed by **90 musicians** from the **West Point Band** and **Montclair State University**, who will play from rowboats on the lake as spectators listen from the shore. On a somewhat smaller scale, as part of MMNY’s popular Mass Appeal concerts featuring large groups of a single instrument, dozens of violinists will join forces on a closed-off block in front of the **Cornelia Street Café** for the **US premiere** of Sergei Prokofiev’s *Sonata for Unaccompanied Violins, Op. 115* (1947), the first time this piece has been performed in its original form in this country. Some 22 Mass Appeal events are planned for 2012.

At the other end of the decibel scale, **Punk Island** returns with a high-energy lineup of punk bands on Governors Island, with seven stages curated by **ABC No Rio**. Since Governors Island is closed during the week, the all-day event takes place on Sunday, June 24.

This year MMNY launches a new **World Tour** feature. Throughout the day, a fleet of colorful, musical buses decorated in the Colombian “chiva” style will circulate around the Upper East Side, bringing audiences from one world music location to the next. Participating organizations include the **Museum for African Art**, the **Americas Society**, the **Cultural Services of the French Embassy**, the **Asian American Arts Alliance**, and the **New York Arabic Orchestra**. Each institution will host several solid hours of music from its associated region.

Channeling whimsy into outrage (or is it the other way around?), a tag team of vibraphonists will perform Erik Satie’s **eighteen-hour** composition **Vexations** near the corner of Broad and Wall Streets, led by frequent MMNY collaborator Amy Garapic. Simultaneous performances of the piece will take place around the world for other Make Music/*Fête de la Musique* events.

Closer to home musically, a diverse assortment of jazz combos will play while walking the length of the **High Line** park in the evening, going south to north, with a new group setting out on the path every 10 minutes, then improvising together with the previous group at the end.

Make Music New York is proud to partner with some of the city’s leading cultural organizations and venues as co-presenters. For 2012, co-presenters include **Arts Brookfield**, **Carnegie Hall**, **Celebrate Brooklyn**, **Darmstadt “Classics of the Avant-Garde,”** **Friends of the High Line**, **Joe’s Pub**, **Merkin Hall**, **92nd St. Y**, **River to River/Lower Manhattan Cultural Council**, **Symphony Space**, and others to be announced.

This year’s media partners include **Metro New York**, **Time Out New York**, and **WNYC**. Further information on Make Music New York is available at www.makemusicny.org.

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