



May 21, 2012
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**MAKE MUSIC NEW YORK + NPR MUSIC
PRESENT PHILIP GLASS CHORAL PREMIERE
PLUS: 4-HOUR PIECE FOR 64 TOY PIANOS, GOSPEL PARADE,
MASS APPEAL GUITARS
OPENING THE SUMMER MUSIC SEASON, JUNE 21, 2012**

Opportunities abound for amateurs and professionals to participate

NPR Music and **Make Music New York** are inviting choral singers and the public to participate in the **world premiere** of a new choral arrangement from composer **Philip Glass**, taking place on Thursday, June 21 at 6:30 pm at Father Duffy Square, which occupies the northern triangle of Times Square. The event is a highlight of Make Music New York, which presents hundreds of free, outdoor concerts each year on June 21st.

Glass's short piece is called *The New Rule* and features text by the medieval Sufi poet Rumi. It was commissioned by NPR Music in honor of Philip Glass's 75th birthday this year. The SATB choral arrangement is adapted from material from the composer's 1997 "digital opera" *Monsters of Grace*. Noted conductor Kent Tritle will lead the chorus, as he did for last year's MMNY sing-along choral project, "Mass Appeal Mass."

"We're thrilled to take part in this event," says Anya Grundmann, NPR Music Director and Executive producer. "Philip Glass's work has come to mean so much to an incredibly wide variety of music fans. One large part of our mission here at NPR Music is to help people discover great music across all genres; another is to bring artists and audiences closer together in new and surprising ways, whether that's online, via the radio, or in live events. Having the public be part of this world premiere is a perfect fit with our mission.

"We are also very honored," adds Grundmann, "that Kent Tritle – one of America's leading choral conductors – will be leading *The New Rule*. Kent is a great force for choral music not just in New York but across the country, and we're delighted that he will conduct this world premiere."

"From Broadway to the Brill Building, Times Square has been at the heart of American music and creativity for over a century," says Tim Tompkins, President of the Times Square Alliance.

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“We are honored to have Make Music New York join our 10th Annual Summer Solstice Celebration with the premiere of *The New Rule*, and to celebrate the 75th birthday of Philip Glass, whose music and art perfectly match the edge of his hometown, New York, and Times Square.”

Singers (amateur or professional) who would like to take part in the premiere of *The New Rule* can download the score at <http://n.pr/Kksuum>. Participants should arrive by 6:30, warmed up and ready to sing. The premiere at Times Square will be videotaped and recorded. The hour-long program will also include movements from J. S. Bach’s *Mass* in B Minor.

Simultaneously with the Glass premiere in Times Square, the teen new music ensemble Face the Music will be playing Philip Glass’s *Glassworks* in a “block party” in front of the group’s home, the Kaufman Center on W. 67th St. between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave., starting at 6:30 pm. The program will also include music by Steve Martland and Lev Zhurbin.

Other Make Music New York events just announced spotlight the festival’s stunning musical diversity.

In Brooklyn, one and all are invited to join the Lafayette Inspirational Ensemble as it leads a **Gospel sing-along parade** through the streets of Park Slope. The parade will gather at 6:30 pm at Washington Park (5th Ave & 4th Street, Brooklyn), and proceed to the Prospect Park Bandshell (9th Street & Prospect Park West). The event will culminate in a 7:30 concert by Gospel sensations **Mary Mary** and **Latice Crawford** presented as part of the annual Celebrate Brooklyn! Performing Arts Festival.

Composer **Wendy Mae Chambers’s KUN** is scored for **64 baby grand toy pianos** played by 64 toy pianists performing music composed utilizing the I Ching. The performance will last from 4:30 pm until sunset at 8:31 pm, with pianos arranged in yin/yang pairs, covering the expanse of Pier 15 and Pier 16 at the South Street Seaport in Lower Manhattan. Listeners are invited to wander at will through the various piano stations, experiencing the composition in an almost infinite variety of configurations. Performers will include several luminaries of NYC’s indie-classical scene, including **Missy Mazzoli** and **Lorna Krier** of Victoire, **Vicky Chow** of the Bang on a Can All Stars, **Beata Moon**, **Evelyne Luest**, and **David Friend**. *KUN* is presented in association with LMCC and the River To River Festival.

Mass Appeal Guitars, part of MMNY’s annual series of concerts for massed groups of a single instrument, takes place on the South Plaza of Union Square. In conjunction with the Union Square Partnership’s *Summer in the Square* series, guitarists of all skill levels are invited to convene at 4 pm for mini-lessons to prepare for a concert at 5:30 pm, featuring classic (and soon-to-be classic) rock songs by Bob Marley, Oasis, America, Deep Purple, Jimi Hendrix, and Adele. The event will be capped by a 6 pm concert by guitar hero **Alex Skolnick**, whose work spans jazz, the metal band Testament, and the acoustic world music duo Rodrigo Y Gabriela. Mass Appeal Guitars is sponsored by Guitar Center, Guitar World Magazine, and NYC Guitar School, in association with the Union Square Partnership.

In addition, a second, uptown Mass Appeal Guitar event will take place on Lexington Ave and E. 91st, presented by the **92nd Street Y**. At 5:30 pm, Chris Bergson will lead classic blues songs

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by B.B. King, Muddy Waters, and Howlin' Wolf; at 6:30 pm, Nelson Riveros will lead an hour of Latin classics by "Chuco" Valdés, Clare Fischer, Pedro Flores, and Paquito D'Rivera. All guitarists are welcome.

This year, a new partnership with **Guitar Center** will make each Mass Appeal event bigger and better than ever, as Guitar Center invites their customers to bring their instruments and join in the festivities. Guitar Center will provide instrument support at Union Square on June 21st, and free tune-ups for guitarists at MMNY's Punk Island on Sunday, June 24th.

"We are pleased to support Make Music New York, a celebration that touches thousands of musicians while creating new ones," says Brian Berman, Guitar Center Director of Local Marketing. "The day inspires everyone, young and old, amateur and professional, to discover the joy of music making for themselves."

The Mass Appeal programs are made possible in part with public funds from the Fund for Creative Communities, supported by New York State Council on the Arts and administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

As with all Make Music New York events, these concerts are **free to the public**, no tickets required. Further information on Make Music New York is available at www.makemusicny.org.

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