



April 16, 2013
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MAKE MUSIC NEW YORK IS SEVEN
HUNDREDS OF FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS
ON FIRST DAY OF SUMMER, JUNE 21, 2013**

**175 KEYBOARDS ON CORNELIA STREET
144 SINGERS IN ROWBOATS, CONDUCTED BY GEORGE STEEL
75 PUNK BANDS ON A STATEN ISLAND PIER
20 BECK SONGS AT ASTOR PLACE
9 WEEKS OF RHYTHM ON RIKERS ISLAND
AND SO MUCH MORE**

Co-hosts include Carnegie Hall, River to River, Central Park Summerstage, ABC No Rio, BAM, Drom, Flushing Town Hall, Joe's Pub, Kaufman Center, Arts Brookfield, Friends of the High Line, Hudson River Park, and Times Square Alliance

Make Music New York, the largest annual musical event in the city's history, returns for the seventh year with a lavish array of free, outdoor, public concerts all around the city on Friday, June 21, the first day of summer. Last year, **more than 1,000 concerts** were given, spanning all five boroughs, and a similar number is expected this year. Wrote *The New York Times*, "Make Music New York, a free daylong celebration of amateur and professional music making spun off from the 30-year-old *Fête de la Musique* in Paris, has enlivened the summer solstice in New York with prodigious displays and subtle experiences alike since 2007."

Any musician, amateur or professional, young or old, is invited to take part by signing up at www.makemusicny.org; registration closes on Monday, April 29. 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 15th.

Make Music New York 2013 brings an exciting selection of new events and returning favorites. Every year brings large-scale spectacles as well as street-corner concerts, and 2013 is no exception. For the fourth year running, listeners will have the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty and unique acoustic properties of Central Park Lake through site-specific performances. This year, MMNY and **The Americas Society** present two works by iconic Canadian composer **R. Murray Schafer**, a pioneer in the field of "acoustic ecology." At 7 AM and at 8:30 PM, **Tilt Brass** will perform Schafer's *Music For Wilderness Lake* (1979) around the Central Park Lake. In between, at 5 PM, 144 choristers will get into rowboats and sing Schafer's *Credo* (1976) from a

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circular configuration on the lake. This concert-length work will be conducted by **George Steel** and **Steven Fox**, with the audience listening from other boats and from the shore.

As part of our popular Mass Appeal series, MMNY will present a world premiere composition by pianist **Jed Distler** for 175 battery-powered Yamaha keyboards on Cornelia Street in the West Village. Players will include luminaries of the piano world, local amateur pianists, school children, and city officials. The performance will set a new Guinness Book record for the world's largest keyboard ensemble. Following the performance, Yamaha will donate all of the keyboards to the New York City Department of Education. This event is produced in collaboration with **Composers Collaborative Inc**, the **Cornelia Street Cafe**, and **Yamaha**.

Other Mass Appeal events taking place throughout the City include a strum-along for guitars in Union Square (in association with **NYC Guitar School** and **Guitar World Magazine**), an early music jam session for 30 recorders in Morningside Heights, and twenty more events open to anyone who brings their instrument and wants to join in.

In order to extend the celebration to even more of the City's residents, MMNY is bringing six New York-based professional percussionists to **Rikers Island** to teach a nine-week program of music theory and private drum lessons to ten inmates. On June 21st for Make Music New York, all of the students and teachers will play together at a final concert, in front of family members and other inmates. The best students will be offered additional free weekly private lessons upon their release. We gratefully acknowledge **Remo** for donating the instruments.

The East Village comes to the forefront with two major new projects. **Joe's Pub** will present a Beck "Song Reader" stage for MMNY at their Astor Place block party. "Song Reader" is Beck Hansen's 2012 album, consisting of 20 songs published as sheet music by McSweeney's. The stage will feature a day-long mix of well-known performers joining local and amateur ones, all playing from the Beck songbook, and backed by the 18-piece indie orchestral band **Mother Falcon**. Meanwhile, **Drom** will host a brass bacchanalia, starting in Tompkins Square Park at 4 PM, and finishing inside their venue at 4 AM, unticketed and free of charge. All brass bands who are performing elsewhere for MMNY are invited to come and take to the stage.

Punk Island also returns for its 6th year, with over 75 bands creating an intense 10-hour-long punk experience on Saturday June 22nd, curated by **ABC No Rio**. Due to construction on Governors Island, the event will move to Staten Island's recently renovated "Coast Guard" pier, 100 yards south of the Ferry Terminal in St George, with dramatic harbor views.

Make Music New York is proud to partner with some of the city's leading cultural organizations and venues as co-presenters. For 2013, co-presenters not already listed above include **Arts Brookfield**, **BAM**, **Carnegie Hall**, **Central Park Summerstage**, **Flushing Town Hall**, **Friends of the High Line**, **Harlem Arts Alliance**, **Hudson River Park**, **Kaufman Center**, **River to River**, **Times Square Alliance**, and others to be announced.

All Make Music New York events are **free to the public**, no tickets required. Further information is available at www.makemusicny.org.