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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIRD ANNUAL “MAKE MUSIC WINTER” ANNOUNCED FOR DEC. 21, 2013

MORE THAN A DOZEN MUSICAL PARADES ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF WINTER

**NEW THIS YEAR: BICYCLE BELLS IN PROSPECT PARK,
SPANISH-LANGUAGE CAROLING IN WILLIAMSBURG**

**PLUS RETURNING PARADES FOR BOOMBOXES, HANDBELLS,
SMARTPHONES, AND A G-MAJOR PRELUDE ON THE G TRAIN**

Plentiful opportunities to participate, for musicians and audiences alike

Make Music New York is proud to announce the third annual **Make Music Winter**, taking place on Saturday, December 21, 2013, the shortest day of the year. From Harlem to Williamsburg, thirteen participatory musical parades will enliven streets, parks, and other public spaces – including the enigmatic Midtown “street” known as Sixth ½ Avenue – throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Participating organizations include **BAM**, the **Brooklyn Botanic Garden**, **Friends of the High Line**, **El Puente** and **BombaYo**, **Spectrum NYC**, **Park Avenue Methodist Church** and the **Church of St. Ignatius of Antioch**. Featured artists include jazz keyboardist **Jonathan Batiste**, baritone **Christopher Dylan Herbert**, conductor **Harold Rosenbaum**, and **Los Pleneros de la 21**, along with composers **Merche Blasco**, **Phil Kline**, **Daniel Goode**, **Patrick Grant**, and many others. A full schedule is available at www.makemusicny.org.

Like Make Music New York’s annual flagship event on the first day of summer, June 21, Make Music Winter is a free, outdoor musical event that turns audiences into music makers. Inspired by Phil Kline’s annual *Unsilent Night* – the boombox parade that has become an international tradition and takes place December 14 in NYC this year – Make Music Winter’s innovative projects transform New York’s cityscape for a single day.

New this year: **Blink**, devised by composer Merche Blasco, gathers bicyclists for a pedal-driven procession through Brooklyn’s Prospect Park. Cyclists follow a score transmitted from the lead bike via a special helmet pre-programmed with lights that cue bicycle bells of different pitches. In addition, the holiday tradition of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean known as the **Parranda** expands from Harlem, where it was held in the inaugural Make Music Winter (2011), to Williamsburg, bringing lively Bombas, Plenas, and carols to a new neighborhood for 2013.

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Returning favorites from the previous Make Music Winters include **Winterize**, with baritone Christopher Dylan Herbert in Schubert's song cycle *Die Winterreise* (The Winter's Journey) on a trek through the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, accompanied by hand-held radios; Phil Kline's **Peregrine**, a sparkling electronic score emanating from boomboxes carried through Fort Greene; **Thru-Line**, treating riders on the Brooklyn-bound G train to tag-team performances of Bach's famous *Prelude* from Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major; **The Gaits**, a location-sensitive smartphone app (now available for both Android and iPhones) for paraders along The High Line; and **Bell by Bell**, a handbell procession now taking place in the Harry Potter-esque thoroughfare known as Sixth ½ Avenue. Further details follow.

Program for Make Music Winter (listed alphabetically)

- **Bell by Bell:** Artist Tom Peyton distributes fifty color-coded bells to the crowd, one color per note. At the front of the parade, a team of conductors waves corresponding colored flags to lead the group in slowly moving music, written by a variety of composers. When the conductors raise their red and green flags, everyone with red and green bells start ringing, and so on for each color, creating a sonorous, atmospheric soundscape in the Harry Potter-esque thoroughfare known as Sixth ½ Avenue. The Parade begins at 5:00pm at W. 55th Street and 6½ Ave; all are invited to join.
- **Blink:** Blink gathers seasoned and casual cyclists to perform a new piece for bicycle bells by composer Merche Blasco. Riders travel through Prospect Park, following a score transmitted by a special bike helmet outfitted with pre-programmed lights. Through the piece, riders will collaborate with each other and generate music that interacts with the soundscape of the area. The parade begins at 4:30pm at Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza; all are invited to join with their bicycles.
- **The Gaits: a High Line Soundwalk:** Composers Lainie Fefferman, Jascha Narveson, and Cameron Britt have created a free smartphone application that turns footsteps into twinkling metallic sounds, electric guitar chords, dulcimer notes, water splashes, car horns, and applause. By connecting them to small, wearable speakers, smartphones become instruments effortlessly played by strolling, sauntering, or sprinting down the High Line. The Parade begins at 5:15pm at the southern end of the High Line. To join, download the free Gaits application to your phone; speakers will be available on loan for the first 50 participants. Produced by Friends of the High Line; software development by Daniel Iglesia.
- **La Trullita Navideña de los Sures:** El Puente, BombaYo, and El Puente CADRE (Community Artists' Development & Resource Exchange) present an afternoon of music, food, and holiday celebration in *Los Sures*, the Southside of Williamsburg. Celebrate a Puerto Rican, Dominican, and Caribbean tradition by visiting local businesses and community institutions with traveling musicians, surprising family and friends with carols and holiday spirit. The Trullita begins at 3:00pm at El Puente Headquarters (211 S. 4th Street, Brooklyn); all are invited to join.
- **A Love Riot: Harmonaboard Parade:** Renowned jazz pianist and melodica player Jonathan Batiste leads a pick-up group of 25 jazz musicians, parading south from Columbus Circle playing melodicas (also known as "harmonaboards") and stopping in at neighborhood

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landmarks. The procession begins at 4:00pm at Columbus Circle; melodicas generously provided by Hohner for the first 25 participants who register.

- **Parranda Navideña:** El Barrio's internationally acclaimed Los Pleneros de la 21 bring to life a long-standing, heart-warming tradition from Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, "*Las Parrandas Navideñas*." Musicians and singers travel around the neighborhood, surprising hosts and visitors with festive *aguinaldos*, and traditional Bombas and Plenas in a holiday celebration, which also features the children, parents and student members of LP21's Bomba & Plena Community Workshops as additional performers. The Parranda begins with an maraca-making workshop at 2:30pm at Casa Azul (143 E. 103rd Street); all are invited to sing, dance and play their own instruments.
- **Peregrine:** Composer Phil Kline returns to the walking-boombox-ambient genre he made famous with *Unsilent Night*, to present *Peregrine*, a 45-minute electronic work starting in front of BAM and migrating through Fort Greene, Brooklyn. At its US premiere for Make Music Winter 2011, critic David Patrick Stearns said of *Peregrine*, "people came to their windows in the Victorian-era townhouses, perhaps to make sure a flying saucer wasn't attempting to parallel park." *Peregrine* begins at 4:00pm in front of BAM's Peter Jay Sharp Building (30 Lafayette Ave) in Brooklyn; all are invited to join. Presented in partnership with BAM and the FAB Alliance.
- **Pilgrimage:** Early Music singers led by conductor Harold Rosenbaum walk from the Park Avenue Methodist Church to the Church of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, carrying lanterns through Central Park while singing medieval melodies once sung along the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela. The pilgrimage begins at 6:00pm at the Park Avenue Methodist Church (106 E. 86th St.); all singers are invited to join.
- **Soho Gamelan Walk:** Composer Daniel Goode will lead participants through a portion of Soho's cast iron district. Using their hands, the group will drum on the hollow cast iron fronts of all the buildings in a specific key to be announced shortly. Participants are welcome to bring along instruments to play in this key, or improvise singing. The event begins at 2:00pm at Sixth Avenue and Spring Street; "Wear gloves," advise the organizers, and bring along an instrument if you wish.
- **Thru-Line:** Amateur and professional string players disperse to each of the Brooklyn-bound G train subway platforms. Over the course of an hour, every time a train arrives, musicians will step in and out of the front car to give subway riders a continuous, tag-team performance of the famous Prelude from J.S. Bach's *Cello Suite No. 1 in G major*. Conceived and produced by James Holt. Sign up in advance to perform; to listen, ride the G train beginning at 2:00pm.
- **Tilted Axes: Music for Mobile Electric Guitars:** Composer Patrick Grant leads a procession with dozens of electric guitarists through the East Village, with a dramatic stop at The Alamo, the iconic Astor Place sculpture. In 2014, The Alamo will be moved from its current location to another part of the plaza. To honor this occurrence, Grant introduces new repertoire that evokes the iconic guitar music of Wild West cinema. Tilted Axes begins at 3:00pm at Spectrum NYC (121 Ludlow Street); interested guitarists may sign up in advance, and the public is invited to join the procession and accompany with light hand percussion.

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- **Village in Volume: Percussion Triple Music:** Inspired by the collaborations of John Cage and Lou Harrison, the three members of percussion ensemble TIGUE lead participants through the streets of Greenwich Village in a participatory performance of a piece for tuned metal pipes and voices. Each member of TIGUE will independently compose their own music, resulting in a piece in three parts. Combining the active sounds of metal pipe choirs, as well as intimate vocal moments, instructions for participants will be explained in real time to each participant via a downloadable mp3. Village in Volume begins at 7:00pm at the north plaza of Union Square; to join, download instructions and audio tracks at makemusicny.org, beginning in December.
- **Winterize:** Baritone Christopher Dylan Herbert presents an encore performance of his participatory version of Franz Schubert's 1828 song cycle *Winterreise* at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The performance will migrate throughout the Garden, passing through locations that reflect the vivid imagery of Wilhelm Müller's poetry and Schubert's music. Audience members provide the accompaniment using hand-held radios, emitting the original piano music as performed by Timothy Long and reimagined by sound designer Jonathan Zalben. The production is directed by JJ Hudson, with German-to-English supertitles created by students from Parsons The New School for Design. *New York Times* critic Zachary Woolfe called last year's *Winterize* "brave and, in all senses, chilling... an elegantly lean performance that would have been impressive in any context but was remarkable under these conditions." Winterize will begin at Magnolia Plaza at 11:30am. (Note that the normal admission fee for the garden will be waived; this event is free.)

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

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