



Presented by 

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**RUSH HOUR CONCERTS PRESENTS SECOND ANNUAL
MAKE MUSIC CHICAGO
A DAY OF FREE MUSIC THROUGHOUT CITY & BEYOND**

Summer Solstice: Thursday, June 21, 2012

Chicago Celebrates in Tandem with Global Phenomenon “Fête de la Musique”

98.7WFMT Broadcasts throughout Entire Day

CHICAGO – ***Make Music Chicago***, a completely free, one-day music festival presented by ***Rush Hour Concerts***, returns for its second annual event on the first day of summer, Thursday, June 21. *Make Music Chicago* celebrates the ability of everyone to make music as people of all ages, musical genres and ability levels (from amateurs to marquee artists) all gather throughout the day in Chicago’s public spaces to engage in music-making.

98.7WFMT devotes its entire day of broadcasting on June 21 to *Make Music Chicago*, an unprecedented event for Chicago’s only classical music radio station. 98.7WMT broadcasts live at select sites throughout the day and, in between concerts, uses roving reporters to check in on happenings at venues all across the city. The broadcast concludes with a live broadcast of the Grand Finale at St. James Cathedral. The broadcast is being produced by 98.7WFMT’s program director, Peter Whorf.

In its inaugural year in 2011, over 10,000 people experienced live music at 35 sites all over the city; in 2012, *Make Music Chicago*’s “spontaneous musical combustion” will spread across the city to over **75 sites**. *Make Music Chicago* is free to both audiences and musicians alike and no tickets are required for any of the events.

“We launched *Make Music Chicago* last year knowing that we wanted to join in this international day of music-making,” said **Deborah Sobol**, *Rush Hour Concerts* Creative Director. “The enthusiasm that radiated from the whole city was palpable. Everyone taking part knew that they were part of something much larger than themselves – they’re joining people all over the world in making music.”

Performance sites consist of public spaces citywide, including Daley Plaza, Millennium Park, both Apple stores (Michigan Avenue and North Avenue), Macy’s State Street, John Hancock Center, Museum Campus, Northerly Island and over 25 Chicago Park District sites, among many others. This year *Make Music Chicago* expands both in scale and geographically, reaching north, south and west beyond the city proper. New neighborhoods hosting *Make Music Chicago* events include the north shore communities from Evanston up to Lake Bluff, as well as Chinatown, Pilsen, Logan Square, Humboldt Park, Hyde Park and Austin. A complete list of performance sites can be found at www.makemusicchicago.com/sites.

Make Music Chicago begins during the morning rush hour with music-makers gathering on street corners in the Loop to engage in performances. The musical celebration continues throughout the day, with two lunchtime events returning from last year, the “**Sousapalooza**” from noon to 12:45 PM and an “**Opera &**

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Show Tunes Sing-Along” from 12:45 to 1:30 PM, both taking place in Daley Plaza (50 W. Washington). Richard Fischer, Director of Bands at Concordia University-Chicago, leads any and all eager “Sousapalooza” participants through some of the most beloved marches of John Philip Sousa, then opera and chorus fans will gather to sing beloved American musical favorites.

Make Music Chicago’s Family Concerts also occur throughout the day, including performances at the Lincoln Park Zoo, where woodwind ensemble **Quintet Attacca** performs their interactive “Peter and the Wolf” show; **“Musikgarten Hour”** citywide, for fans of the popular music education series; and, Family Concerts at the Chicago Children’s Museum and Seneca Park.

The day’s events close with a Grand Finale at St. James Cathedral Commons (65 E. Huron Street in River North) from 6 to 9 PM, featuring singers from the **Ryan Opera Center** of Lyric Opera Chicago, instrumentalists from the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**, musicians from **Third Coast Percussion** with the **Davis Square Park Community Band**, and a massive public performance of Robert Johnson’s popular blues standard, **“Sweet Home Chicago,”** the signature culmination that became tradition last year.

Additional events and program details will be announced at a later time. All programs are subject to change.

Make Music Chicago is presented by *Rush Hour Concerts*, with lead sponsor Comcast and supporting sponsor Tishman Speyer. Over fifty arts, cultural and educational partners across the city are participating, including 98.7WFMT, the Chicago Loop Alliance, the Chicago Park District, the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, Music Institute of Chicago, Navy Pier and St. James Cathedral.

About Make Music Chicago

Make Music Chicago is inspired by France’s “Fête de la Musique,” a national musical holiday marking its 31st year in 2012. Since 1982, “Fête de la Musique” has become an international phenomenon, taking place on June 21 in more than 460 cities in 110 countries, including Germany, Italy, Egypt, Syria, Morocco, Australia, Vietnam, Congo, Cameroon, Fiji, Colombia, Chile, Nepal and Japan. *Make Music Chicago* is part of a national group of “Make Music” cities that includes New York, Los Angeles, Denver and Baltimore.

Participating “Music-Makers”

Make Music Chicago is a festival for people of all ages and levels – from students and amateurs to professionals and marquee artists – to engage in music-making. Musicians of all ages and genres continue to sign up to participate on June 21 at over 75 sites from the North Shore to Hyde Park; from Austin to the Lakefront. Musicians, bands and ensembles from a diverse array of styles and genres currently participating include:

Blues

- Friends Of Chloe – guitar, bass, drums, flute

Classical

- Discipuli Cantatis – a capella voice
- The Drouets – violin and viola
- St. Chrysostom’s Church – organ, voice, carillon and other instruments
- Vienna Waltz Ensemble – two violins, double bass
- Megan Stokes – piano
- Chicago Bass Ensemble – five double basses
- DUO!! – piano duets and trios
- Lyle Nicholson – voice and piano
- Merdinger-Feokitistova Piano Duo – two pianos

Folk

- John Sargent – vocals, guitar, ukulele
- Sista’ Joy, The Inspirational “Mountain Mama” – guitar and banjo
- Meisha Herron – guitar, percussion, voice
- Eileen Censotti – guitar

Jazz

- Marjorie Johnston – piano
- Shawn Payne Trio – piano, bass, drums
- BMR4 – saxophone, guitar, acoustic bass, drums

Other

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- The New Testament of Love Chorale – keyboards, bass guitar, lead guitar, drums, horns and vocal ensemble
- Charles Joseph Smith – piano
- Yung Star – rap vocals and dancers
- Roadside Flutes and Guitars – two flutes and two guitars
- Mayo – guitar
- Al “Hot Mix” Holmes – DJ
- Quintet Attacca – flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, narrator

Pop

- Marissa, John, and Catherine – piano, vocals, violin, and cello
- Harris Family Trio – two guitars, mandolin, keyboard, ukulele, cowbell
- Carpet Museum – digital synthesizers and acoustic instruments

Rock

- Sole Heiress – guitar, bass, drums
- Paul Coady – vocals, guitar, bass, drums
- The Sonnets – guitar, bass, drums
- The Hamburglars – vocals, guitar, bass, drums
- BarbWire – guitar and vocals

World

- Potts & Pans Steelband – steelpans and percussion
- SOULPHONETICS – DJs
- Tambours Sans Frontieres – Congolese percussion
- Mi Yodea – keyboard, hand drums, flute, clarinet

Music-makers of all varieties are encouraged to continue signing up through May 15 online at www.makemusicchicago.com/participate. A complete and up-to-the-minute list of music-makers can be found at www.makemusicchicago.com/music-makers.

About Rush Hour Concerts

Rush Hour Concerts' mission is to provide the broadest access to great live music-making throughout Chicago in ways which are relevant to contemporary lifestyles, aesthetically nourishing, and foster a sense of community. *Rush Hour Concerts* is committed to **free** arts programs for families and communities of all types and is rooted in the core belief that no matter what one's age, ability or background, anyone can make music.

Its free programs include a weekly summer series at St. James Cathedral, featuring world-class musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera Chicago and around the country; *Make Music Chicago*, an annual daylong music festival on June 21 for all ages, levels, and musical genres; a family concert series; and, a Community Engagement Pilot Program in the Back of the Yards and Garfield Park neighborhoods.

To learn more about *Make Music Chicago*, please visit www.makemusicchicago.com, and to learn more about *Rush Hour Concerts*, please visit www.rushhour.org.

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