



Yannick Noah in Central Park for Make Music NY 1,000+ Free Concerts on June 21

FRANCE'S MOST POPULAR STAR CELEBRATES *LA CHANSON FRANÇAISE*



New York, April 6, 2009—Summer is fast approaching, and that can only mean one thing: it's almost time for Make Music New York! On **Sunday June 21**, the first day of summer, over **1,000 free concerts** will take place in public spaces throughout all five boroughs as part of the worldwide **Fête de la Musique**, including a **Central Park SummerStage** performance by French pop star **Yannick Noah**. This year's edition of the Fête de la Musique in France celebrates the past 50 years of *chanson française* (French song), to mark the 50th anniversary of the Ministry of Culture, which originally launched the Fête de la Musique in 1982.

New York highlights include a special **Central Park SummerStage Fête de la Musique** line-up of contemporary French music, presented in association with the **Cultural Services of the French Embassy** on Sunday June 21 from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM, and featuring **Mayra Andrade**, **Coralie Clément**, as well as **Yannick Noah**. Noah is one of

France's most beloved celebrities (ranked #1 in a 2008 survey by *Le Journal du Dimanche*), because of his many upbeat pop hits, including "Saga Africa" (1991) and "Donne-moi une vie" (2006), but also because of his tennis exploits. In 1983, he became the first Frenchman to win the French Open in 37 years (no other Frenchman has won since) and he won an impressive 39 titles in all during his career. It would seem that athletic prowess runs in the family, as his son, **Joakim Noah**, is a center-forward for the Chicago Bulls.

"I've played tennis in Central Park, had picnics there, run the marathon alongside it, listened to other musicians perform in it... but I've never played there myself! So I'm really delighted to take part in SummerStage's *fête de la musique* and finally have the opportunity to sing in Central Park," says **Yannick Noah**. Excerpts from his album are available at www.yannicknoah.com.

He will be preceded on stage by up-and-coming stars Mayra Andrade and Coralie Clément. **Mayra Andrade's** ascension has been swift: at the tender age of 16, the Cape Verdean singer won the Gold Medal in a singing contest at the 2001 Francophone Games. Her deep and warm voice switches with remarkable ease from Morna to Funana and Coladeira to Batuque, all with a unique jazzy touch. **Coralie Clément** uses her velvety voice to bring together familiar sounds of *chanson* and bossa nova music with the rhythm and flair of French pop. Her first album, "Salles des Pas Perdus" was released in 2002, and she wrote a song for the movie *Something's Gotta Give* starring Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson. Both artists will be able to perform in Central Park thanks to additional support from the **French Music Export Office**.

Another highpoint will be Make Music's new **Mass Appeal initiative**, which will give New Yorkers without groups of their own a chance to take part in the fun, by bringing together hundreds of musicians to play **pieces written for a single instrument**. Huge ensembles of clarinets, crotales, french horns, veenas, violas, accordions, and saxophones have already formed, and are preparing pieces (often rarely programmed compositions) for prominent outdoor locations throughout the city. With the launch of **Time Out New York's MMNY matchmaking website**, any musician, from the rusty violinist to the professional kazoo player, can register to join a performance of epic proportions.

Time Out New York's website, www.timeoutnewyork.com/makemusic, also includes a **complete listing of events**. Interested music lovers can browse them by starting time, genre, type of venue, and neighborhood to tailor a fascinating itinerary for the day. Or, they can simply head down the street and follow their ears!

Last year in New York, over 3,000 musicians participated in the one-day celebration, which took place simultaneously in more than **327 cities** around the world. From morning to night, musicians of all ages, experiences, and musical persuasions—from hip hop to opera, Latin jazz to punk rock—performed on New York City streets, sidewalks, stoops, plazas, cemeteries, parks and gardens. According to **Mayor Michael Bloomberg**, "Make Music New York is a great example of why New York is one of the world's cultural capitals. [...] With performances from individual amateurs to world-class ensembles, Make Music New York gives all of our residents and visitors a chance to experience the City's diverse musical riches in their own backyards—or to explore the sights and sounds of other neighborhoods."

First launched in **France** in 1982, *la Fête de la Musique* takes place on June 21, the day of the **summer solstice**, every year. During this one day, **public spaces become informal musical stages** for all alike, turning cities into festivals of live music-making. After beginning as an informal celebration, with professional and amateur bands playing spontaneously in the streets, it has now become a key cultural event in over **110 countries**. Make Music NY has become the largest such event outside of Europe.

For more information:

www.makemusicny.org
www.summerstage.org
www.frenchculture.org
www.french-music.org

www.timeoutnewyork.com/makemusic
www.yannicknoah.com
fetedelamusique.culture.fr

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