

Make Music Day 2026 Resounds

Across 150+ U.S. Cities on June 21

Global Celebration Kicks Off Summer with Thousands of Free Outdoor Events, Bringing People of All Ages and Skill Levels Together to Make Music

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May 4, 2026 – Do you find yourself lost in a sea of kazoo players? It must be Make Music Day.

Held on the summer solstice (the longest day of the year), the world's largest annual music event returns on Sunday June 21 with over 5,000 concerts, music lessons, and jam sessions nationwide. In 2025, Make Music Day included 5,471 free public concerts in the U.S., at over 1,500 locations. This year, 42 new communities join the party, reimagining their cities and towns as stages where every kind of musician — young and old, amateur and professional, of every musical persuasion — fills streets, parks, plazas, porches, rooftops, gardens, and other public spaces to celebrate, create, and share their music.

First launched in France in 1982 as the *Fête de la Musique*, Make Music Day has become a global phenomenon, celebrated in more than 2,000 cities worldwide. Completely different from a traditional music festival, Make Music Day is open to all who want to make their own music. Some activities provide drumsticks, harmonicas, guitar strings, and other instruments for the public to use (and keep); others encourage people to bring their own instruments, their own voices, or their own bands.

One new global Make Music Day initiative, **Workplace Harmony**, shines a light on the musical creativity hidden behind the nearest cubicle. Bands and choirs made up of workplace colleagues from Bosch, Chubb, Dentsu Publishing, Ford, Linklaters, MediaMarkt, Sompco, and other global companies will perform for Make Music Day in Los Angeles, London, Istanbul, and beyond. Videos of their performances will be shared with a panel of music industry judges, who will give feedback and bestow prizes, including the inaugural Workplace Harmony Cup.

Conduct Us, another new initiative launched in partnership with comedic performance art group Improv Everywhere, brings large ensembles into public spaces. Initially, the musicians sit quietly behind a sign that says "Conduct Us." As soon as a member of the public steps up to the podium and picks up the baton, the musicians follow their new conductor and start playing. In Cedar Rapids IA, the public will lead the Cedar Rapids Municipal Band during their 7:30pm

concert at Bever Park, while in Salem OR, the public will conduct members of the Salem Orchestra at an event in memory of Make Music Salem co-founder Mark Green.

In honor of America's 250th birthday, Make Music Day's longstanding **Sousapalooza** will be organized this year from coast to coast, inviting large groups of brass and wind musicians to come together and play the quintessentially American music of The March King, John Philip Sousa. The Levitt Family Foundation is supporting Sousapalooza at Levitt venues and concert sites across the country, including events in Dyersburg TN, Shenandoah Junction WV, and more to be announced. Anyone is invited to download the music, bring their horn, and join the band.

Other Make Music Day national programs returning in 2026 include:

Circle Singing — Popularized by Grammy-winning artist Bobby McFerrin, Circle Singing invites people to create vocal music together on the spot, layering harmonies, rhythms, and melodies without sheet music or preparation. Free Circle Singing events are taking place in Chattanooga, Chicago, Grand Rapids, Montclair NJ, New York City, San Jose, and more to be announced. Leadership support for this program is provided by the Cheswaty Foundation.

Flowerpot Music — Back for a seventh year, participants around the country perform a composition by celebrated composer Elliot Cole and directed by percussionist Peter Ferry, using an unlikely percussion instrument: the flowerpot. Appropriate for musicians and non-musicians alike, participants can join a group, using mallets donated by Vic Firth, and create outdoor soundscapes through easy-to-learn games.

Make Music, Make Friends — For the fourth year, school children aged 7-13 will connect globally for Make Music Day, sharing videos of their musical performances with each other. Teachers from 93 classrooms in Australia, Germany, India, Mexico, South Africa, Türkiye, the U.K. and the U.S. are leading the project by creating a musical greeting video with their kids, sharing it with schools from the other countries, and having their students watch a selection of other musical messages from around the world for Make Music Day.

Mass Appeal — People of all ages and skill levels will band together to make music in hundreds of large, single-instrument groups nationwide. This year, leading music brands including Easttop Harmonicas, Flight Ukuleles and Vic Firth are donating thousands of free instruments so that any member of the public can stop by these events and join the band.

#MySongsYourSong — Coordinated this year by Make Music Nigeria and Make Music Long Beach (CA), songwriters and composers of all kinds are invited to sign up to learn and perform a song by an artist from another part of the world, and hear one of their original songs covered in return.

Roomful of Pianos — In partnership with the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), Roomful of Pianos brings spectacular multi-piano performances to piano stores across the

country for Make Music Day, organized by local MTNA chapters. Participating locations include Atlanta, Charleston, Cleveland, Medford OR, and more to be announced.

Sound of School – For the third year, the NFHS, Alfred Music, FJH Music, the NAMM Foundation, MakeMusic, Inc., and Make Music Alliance are providing free orchestra, choir, and band pieces for school and community ensembles to play on Make Music Day, while also celebrating the 250th birthday of the United States of America. Arrangements of three different pieces – *March On, America* for band, *Spirit of the American West* for orchestra, and *Let Freedom Ring!* for choir – are available for free through MakeMusic Cloud, and printable parts and scores will be sent to all who register.

String Together — On Make Music Day (and Make Music Day eve), music retailers around the world are hosting free guitar string-changing sessions that come with a free set of acoustic Elixir Attune Strings (for the first 12 registrants at each store). All are welcome, from complete newbies who have never changed their strings, to more experienced players looking for a few tips from a pro guitar tech. Participating locations so far include 57 music stores in the U.S., 24 in South Korea, 22 in Italy, 13 in Australia, 12 in the U.K., 10 in Germany, 8 in Taiwan, and 6 in Ukraine.

City-specific highlights from around the U.S. include:

New York, NY: The Shoefly tugboat — manned by musicians playing a custom-designed Wurlitzer organ, fog horns, keyboards, and bells — will journey down the Hudson River and idle at five separate piers, joined by a “Landlubbers” brass band and special guests performing together in call-and-response fashion. Other highlights among hundreds of events include a participatory “Pianokosmos” recital in Madison Square Park for pianists of all ages (playing Bartok’s *Mikrokosmos*, Vincent Ho’s *12 Chinese Zodiac Animals*, George Crumb’s *Makrokosmos*, and Frederic Rzewski’s *The People United Will Never Be Defeated*), and “7 Train Songs” with diverse World Music concerts along Queens’s “international express” subway line from Long Island City to Flushing.

Salem, OR: Step into a clawfoot tub, pull the shower curtain, grab the “shower faucet” (a karaoke mic) and sing your heart out! At night, after hundreds of local Salem bands have performed, the day concludes with a Silent Disco After Party led by three DJs spinning dance music simultaneously for attendees wearing wireless headphones.

Pittsburgh, PA: Make Music Pittsburgh features a jam at Veterans Hospital with over 40 ukulele players, performances by Pittsburgh Festival Opera and the Calliope Folk Music Society at Schenley Plaza, and a Fathers’ Day Music Party in Shaler Township.

Kenosha, WI: Make Music Kenosha’s annual block party broadens to include a parking lot party at the 58th Street lot hosted by Would You Kindly?, a day rave at Anna’s On The Lake, music bingo at 58 Below, and a late night open jam hosted by Miss B Haven.

Big Bear, CA: A group of teenagers, led by voice teacher Diane Kubeja, will sing Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody while walking down the sidewalk, joined along the way by a guitarist, keyboard player, drummer, bassist, and backup singers until the entire village is rocking hard.

Cedar Rapids, IA: Join a sea of kazoo players at Coe College for an afternoon journey through your favorite songs. Sponsored by the Coe College Music Department and West Music, the first 125 participants to arrive will receive a free kazoo.

All Make Music Day events are free and open to the public. Participants who wish to perform or host musical events may register at makemusicday.org. A full schedule of events will be posted on the website in June.

Make Music Day is presented in the U.S. by The NAMM Foundation and coordinated by the nonprofit Make Music Alliance. Make Music Day programs are made possible by the Levitt Family Foundation, Sweetwater Sound, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Funding for programs in Connecticut has been provided by the Connecticut State Legislature and is administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Programs in Tennessee are supported by the Tennessee Entertainment Commission and the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. The event's official hashtag is **#MakeMusicDay**. 10 and 30-second promo videos are available [here](#).

Make Music Day 2026 is confirmed to take place in the following states and local areas:

Alabama: Florence, Huntsville, Montgomery; **Arizona:** Phoenix, Tucson, West Valley; **Arkansas:** Fayetteville; **California:** Anaheim, Berkeley, Big Bear, Fullerton, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Orange, San Jose, Santa Monica, Topanga, Ventura County; **Colorado:** Denver; **Connecticut:** Bethel, Bridgeport, Danbury, Fairfield, Hebron, Manchester, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Old Lyme, Ridgefield, Rocky Hill, Southbury, Westport, Willimantic, Windsor; **Florida:** Nassau County, Orange County, Palm Beach, Tallahassee; **Georgia:** Macon; **Illinois:** Chicago, Wheaton; **Indiana:** Indianapolis; **Iowa:** Cedar Rapids; **Massachusetts:** Boston, Worcester; **Michigan:** Ann Arbor, Escanaba, Grand Rapids; **Minnesota:** Hastings; **Missouri:** Columbia, Kansas City, Liberty; **North Carolina:** Bertie County, Catawba County, Kinston, Stanly County, Vance County; **New Jersey:** Fair Lawn, Montclair; **New Mexico:** Albuquerque; **New York:** Albany, Chatham, New York City, Ossining, Rochester, Troy, Woodstock, Yonkers; **Oklahoma:** Muskogee, Tulsa; **Oregon:** Clatsop County, McMinnville, Salem; **Pennsylvania:** Pittsburgh, York County; **South Dakota:** Aberdeen; **Tennessee:** Athens, Bolivar, Bristol, Centerville, Chattanooga, Cleveland, Clifton, Columbia, Greeneville, Henderson, Hohenwald, Jackson, Knoxville, Lawrenceburg, Macon County, Maryville, Mount Pleasant, Murfreesboro, Nashville; **Texas:** Buda, Cedar Park, College Station, Dallas, Denison, El Paso, Friendswood, Frisco, Houston, Laredo, Mansfield, Menard, New Braunfels, Pasadena, San Antonio, San Marcos, South Padre Island, Sweetwater, Tyler, Wimberley; **Vermont:** statewide; **Washington:** East Jefferson County, Gig Harbor, Issaquah; **Wisconsin:** Appleton,

Ashland, Beloit, Cable, Cross Plains, DeForest, Green Bay, Kenosha, Land O' Lakes, Madison, Middleton, Milwaukee, Platteville, Shell Lake-Spooner, Stevens Point, Sun Prairie, Verona, Waunakee.

About Make Music Day

Held annually on June 21 to coincide with the Summer Solstice, Make Music Day is part of the international *Fête de la Musique* taking place in more than 2,000 cities around the world. The day-long, musical free-for-all celebrates music in all its forms, encouraging people to band together and play in free public concerts. This year, over 150 U.S. cities are organizing Make Music celebrations, encompassing thousands of music-making opportunities nationwide. Make Music Day is supported by The NAMM Foundation and coordinated by the nonprofit Make Music Alliance. For more information, please visit makemusicday.org.