

Make Music Day Announces Updated Schedule: Thousands of Free Events on June 21

*Soccer Celebrations, the Sounds of Route 66, Sousapaloozas, and 5,000+ More Concerts
Coming to a Sidewalk, Park, or Plaza Near You*

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June 4, 2026 – Make Music Day, the worldwide celebration of music held annually on the summer solstice, today announced its updated schedule of unique, exciting, and participatory events taking place on **Sunday June 21**. Encompassing more than 5,000 free public concerts, performances, music lessons, and jam sessions nationwide, the daylong musical free-for-all will be staged in over 150 U.S. cities.

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.

In a new Make Music Day program called **Olé Olé Olé**, cities hosting matches for the FIFA World Cup are bringing music to soccer venues on June 21, and highlighting the countries competing in this year's tournament. Following Paraguay's match in San Jose CA, Make Music San Jose will host a "fútbol-themed fiesta" featuring the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura, a children's orchestra from Paraguay who play musical instruments made from scrap materials collected from the Cateura landfill, and who have performed internationally with Stevie Wonder, Metallica, and Megadeth. In Kansas City MO, the FIFA Fan Festival at the National WWI Museum and Memorial will include concerts from local artists, and performances along the streetcar line by Sass-a-Brass, KCMO's queer street parade brass band. New York NY puts the "World" in "World Cup" with a series of free world music concerts alongside the MTA's 7 Train line in Queens, known as the "International Express," with performances by the Prinkipo Ensemble, MORE Opera, Percussia, HONK NYC, and others. And Houston TX will kick off Make Music Houston at the Toros HTX Soccer Facility, with musical performances and watch parties starting at 11:30am.

The Route 66 Playlist is another new highlight for Make Music Day, with music along the Main Street of America to celebrate the highway's creation 100 years ago. At Chicago IL's Navy Pier,

the official start of Route 66, performers from the School of Rock will sing “Get Your Kicks On Route 66,” “Highway Star,” “Every Day Is A Winding Road,” and more songs of the open road. Tulsa OK, the “Capital of Route 66,” will feature musical performances alongside The Land of the Giants roadside figures, and interactive musical bikes the public can hop on and pedal to power drums, guitar, bass, and vocals, bringing Route 66-inspired songs to life. Santa Monica CA, where Route 66 terminates, will feature music at Mel’s Diner, the original end-of-the-road destination.

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. Sousapaloozas will be held in Albemarle NC, Anchorage AK, Ann Arbor MI, Atlanta GA, Cheshire CT, Chicago IL, Grand Rapids MI, Huntsville AL, Longview TX, Milwaukee WI, New York NY, Platteville WI, Troy NY, and Tyler TX.

The **Levitt Family Foundation**, a national Make Music Day partner, is supporting additional Sousapaloozas at Levitt venues and concert sites in Dyersburg TN, Shenandoah Junction WV, and St Johnsbury VT, while other Levitt locations will present Make Music Day events in Earlham IA, Galva IL, Green Bay WI, Montgomery AL, and San Jose CA.

Other Make Music Day national programs 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 TN, Grand Rapids MI, Madison WI, Montclair NJ, Muskogee OK, three locations in New York NY, and Phoenix AZ. Leadership support for this program is provided by the Cheswaty Foundation.

Conduct Us – Launched in partnership with comedic performance art group Improv Everywhere, Conduct Us 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. In New York NY, the public will conduct the Googler Orchestra, comprised of Google employees, in playing the first movement of Beethoven’s 5th Symphony at Astor Place Plaza, 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.

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, Rhythm Band Instruments, 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 GA, Charleston SC, Cleveland OH, Duluth GA, Medford OR, and San Jose CA.

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 include 61 music stores in the U.S., 24 in South Korea, 22 in Italy, 18 in Australia, 13 in the U.K., 11 in Poland, 10 in Germany, 8 in Taiwan, 7 in Malaysia, and 6 in Ukraine.

Workplace Harmony – This new global initiative shines a light on the musical creativity hidden behind the nearest cubicle. Over a dozen bands and choirs made up of workplace colleagues from Boehringer Ingelheim, Chubb, Ford Motor Company, Société Générale, MediaMarkt, and other companies will perform for Make Music Day in Accra, Detroit, Istanbul, and Los Angeles.

Videos of their performances will be shared with a panel of music industry judges, who will give feedback and bestow prizes.

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*), “River of Song,” a choral procession with marching band through Riverside Park, open to singers of all ages and skill levels.

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, Alameda, 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, Norwich, Old Lyme, Ridgefield, Rocky Hill, Southbury, Westport, Willimantic, Windsor; **District of Columbia:** Washington; **Florida:** Nassau County, Orange County, Palm Beach County, 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, St. Louis; **New Jersey:** Fair Lawn, Montclair; **New Mexico:** Albuquerque; **New York:** Albany, Chatham, New York City, Ossining, Rochester, Troy, Woodstock, Yonkers; **North Carolina:** Bertie County, Catawba County, Durham, Kinston, Stanly County, Vance County; **Oklahoma:** Muskogee, Tulsa; **Oregon:** Clatsop County, McMinnville, Salem; **Pennsylvania:** Pittsburgh, York County; **South Dakota:** Aberdeen; **Tennessee:** Athens, Bolivar, Bristol, Centerville, Chattanooga, Cleveland, Clifton, Columbia, Dyersburg, Greeneville, Henderson, Hohenwald, Jackson, Knoxville, Lawrenceburg, Macon County, Maryville, Murfreesboro, Nashville; **Texas:** Buda, Cedar Park, College Station, Dallas, Denison, El Paso, Friendswood, Frisco, Houston, Laredo, Mansfield, Menard, New Braunfels, Pasadena, Rockport-Fulton, 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, Superior, 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.