

**From: Department of Economic and Community Development, Connecticut Office of the Arts**

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**For Immediate Release**

## **WORLD'S LARGEST ANNUAL MUSIC EVENT MAKES CONNECTICUT DEBUT ON JUNE 21**

### **Over 250 Free Outdoor Music Making Events to be Held across The State as Part of Annual Global Celebration**

**Connecticut, March 12, 2018** – The first annual **Make Music Connecticut**, a wild and wonderful mix of over 250 free outdoor musical events, will make its debut on Thursday, June 21. Make Music Connecticut is part of Make Music Day, a global music celebration that takes place on the summer solstice each year and brings people of all ages and skill levels together to make music. This year, more than 70 U.S. cities and the entire state of Connecticut will host thousands of Make Music performances across the country as part of the world's largest annual music event.

Make Music Day began in France in 1982 as the *Fête de la Musique*, and has spread to over 800 cities across 120 countries. Completely different from a typical musical festival, Make Music concerts are performed by anyone who wants to take part and enjoyed by everyone who wants to attend. From classical to folk, hip hop to opera, Latin jazz to punk rock, live music of all kinds resounds on streets, sidewalks, porches, plazas, parks, gardens, store fronts and other public spaces on the longest day of the year.

“Investing in a day that celebrates the diversity of our music and musicians across the State reaffirms the role that music plays to connect us across languages, borders, and backgrounds,” says Kristina Newman Scott, Director of Culture for The State of Connecticut, “This day truly honors the musician within us all.”

Make Music Day Connecticut is being administered in partnership with The Connecticut Office of the Arts and the following organizations; The Greater Hartford Arts Council, South Eastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition, The Arts Council of Greater New Haven, Windham Arts, Stamford Downtown, Middletown Commission on the Arts, Northwest Connecticut Arts Council, Fairfield Theatre Company, Waterbury Symphony Orchestra, The City of Waterbury and City Lights Gallery in Bridgeport. Highlights of Make Music Connecticut will include:

- **Community Jam Session in State House Square** The Greater Hartford Arts Council's *Art on the Streets House Band* welcomes downtown residents and workers to join them for a jam session in State House Square between 11:30am – 1:30pm on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Bring

your instrument and sit in with the band on your lunch break or just stop by to enjoy music made by the community.

- **Northwest Connecticut Art's Council Presents Thomasina Levy**, former CT State Troubadour as well as internationally recognized mountain dulcimer player, singer, and song writer, will weave together the best of traditional and contemporary folk music.
- **The Arts Council of Greater New Haven** introduces us to **Trap Yoga with Thema Graves** - Vinyasa style yoga coupled with a live DJ pumpin' Trap Music beats at several outdoor locations. Bring your mat to align your mind, body, and spirit, while getting it in and having fun!
- Join **Middletown Commission on The Arts in Clara's Journey: Why our Piano goes to the Woods**. Learn how the piano at The Russell Library named after Clara Schumann, has a summer adventure in the woods. Come enjoy her music and story with Mara Bennett, Noyes dancer, and Carolyn Halstead.
- **Artreach, Inc.** is working with the **Town of Sprague, First Selectman Catherine Osten** and the **Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition** to host a day of performances at Sprague River Park with alternating concerts and audience participation events, including a drumming circle and songwriter showcases.
- **The Bridgeport Art Trail** is bringing an eclectic mix of free-opportunities to make and enjoy music, including lunch-time music in public spaces like the Broad St steps, an open-mic evening at McLevy Green and live performances and interviews broadcasted from WPKN radio, 89.5 FM.
- **Fairfield Theatre Company** will host a day-long battle of the bands-style music festival in The Warehouse and the FTC parking lot. Live music all day including food trucks and local vendors!
- Musicians of every kind will fill the parks and sidewalk cafés throughout **Stamford Downtown** for a day of music celebration
- Join **Windham Arts** in their music and community celebration, happening in Downtown Willimantic on the Solstice. The Third Thursday Street Fests started in 2002 and they have grown into a major regional event from May to September every year. This year they will take part in CT Make Music Day.
- **Waterbury** is planning a fun-filled day with musicians showcasing their creative talents on street corners, sidewalks and plazas throughout its historic downtown.

Any musician, amateur or professional, young or old, is invited to take part by signing up at [MakeMusicCT.org](http://MakeMusicCT.org) where you can find your nearest Make Music Day City. Registration closes on May 21, 2018. Likewise, businesses, buildings, schools, churches, and other institutions can visit the website to offer their outdoor spaces as concert locations.

A full schedule of events will be posted at [MakeMusicCT.org](http://MakeMusicCT.org)

on June 1, 2018.

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**About Make Music Day**

Held annually on June 21, Make Music Day is part of the international *Fête de la Musique*, taking place in 800 cities across 120 countries. The daylong, musical free-for-all celebrates music in all its forms, encouraging people to band together and play in free public concerts. This year, 70+ U.S. cities are organizing Make Music celebrations, encompassing thousands of music making opportunities nationwide. Make Music Day is presented by the NAMM Foundation and coordinated by the nonprofit Make Music Alliance. For more information, please visit [www.makemusicday.org](http://www.makemusicday.org).