

Biography



Aaron Friedman is the founder and president of Make Music New York (makemusicny.org), a nonprofit organization that produces a citywide outdoor musical celebration in New York on June 21. MMNY's free concerts take place on hundreds of plazas, streets, sidewalks, and parks in the five boroughs. Thousands of amateur and professional performers of all ages and musical persuasions reflect the rich diversity of New York's musical culture.

Having experienced the 2006 *Fête de la Musique* in Paris, Mr. Friedman was inspired to create a comparable event in New York. In the course of a year, with a budget of less than \$20,000, Mr. Friedman brought together a group of volunteers and organized the first MMNY in 2007, with over 560 free performances. This year, the event has grown to over 1,350 concerts, making it the most expansive musical event in NYC history. In 2011, he launched a companion event on December 21st, "Make Music Winter," with a dozen participatory musical parades throughout the city.

In 2013, he co-founded Solstice (onesolstice.com), a tech and consulting company that helps other cities establish their own Make Music Day celebrations. Solstice currently works with more than a dozen US cities on their Make Music events.

In 2002, while studying composition at Columbia University, Mr. Friedman founded an environmental advocacy group called "Silent Majority" to combat noise pollution in New York. The group's research and lobbying efforts resulted in new legislation regulating car alarms, drawing national media attention and leading to similar regulation in Vancouver, Hawaii, and New Zealand.

Mr. Friedman graduated from Swarthmore College in 2000.