

**CATCHING UP | MAKE MUSIC MADISON**

## Yes, summer will return, and so will Make Music Madison

DECEMBER 30, 2013 11:45 AM • [GAYLE WORLAND](#) | [GWORLAND@MADISON.COM](mailto:GWORLAND@MADISON.COM) | 608-252-6188

Midsummer feels pretty far away for most of us — but not Michael Rothschild.

Rothschild, the driving force behind Make Music Madison, has been working since early fall with a band of volunteers to plan the city's second annual festival of outdoor music. Make Music Madison, scheduled for June 21, will join hundreds of similar events taking place around the world on the summer solstice.

Next summer's event likely will offer more chances for the public to join in, he said. Possibilities include a mass choral sing or something like the harmonica lesson held for 100 novices last year on State Street.

The fact that June 21 falls on a Saturday in 2014 opens up many possibilities, especially since it will coincide with the popular Dane County Farmers' Market, Rothschild said.

Rain showers during Make Music Madison's inaugural year in 2013 did not dampen the enthusiasm of the scores of volunteers and musicians, both amateur and professional, who helped present music on stages and street corners, in parks and under awnings.

Some 280 concerts were scheduled at 110 venues in Madison, more than any American city with the exception of New York, said Rothschild, a retired UW-Madison professor.

Volunteers are needed to help organize, publicize and run the 2014 event, he said. They can sign up at [makemusicmadison.org](http://makemusicmadison.org).

The city paid \$25,000 toward the 2013 festival and has budgeted the same amount in 2014, Rothschild said.

Musicians are not paid, a fact that concerns some in the music community. However, the Madison Arts Commission feels the festival is in keeping with the city's Cultural Plan, city arts administrator Karin Wolf said.

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