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For Immediate Release
Wednesday, March 18, 2009

CHICAGO'S GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL PROUDLY LAUNCHES GALA 75th SEASON OF FREE CLASSICAL MUSIC, JUNE 10 – AUGUST 15, 2009

75th season will feature unprecedented lineup, including a world premiere commission based on the Burnham Centennial, a live re-creation of the first orchestral concert presented at the Grant Park Music Festival; plus, the release of Sounds of Chicago's Lakefront, a photo-filled commemorative book recalling the history of Grant Park and its Music Festival

CHICAGO – Chicago's **Grant Park Music Festival** - the Grammy®-nominated Grant Park Orchestra and the award-winning Grant Park Chorus led by Principal Conductor Carlos Kalmar and Chorus Director Christopher Bell - will celebrate its historic 75th season with a wide ranging series of classical music concerts and special event programming at the state-of-the-art Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, June 10 – August 15, 2009. The concerts, which are always free and open to the public, will generally take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Additional concert program times and locations are noted.

Each season, the Grant Park Music Festival invites world-renowned conductors, vocalists and musicians to showcase their formidable talents, and the Gala 75th season in 2009 continues that classic tradition. Performing some of the greatest compositions in the classical music canon, the Grant Park Music Festival welcomes world-class guest artists including pianists **Stephen Hough**, **Ingrid Fliter** and **Jon Kimura Parker**; violinist **James Ehnes**; Brazilian jazz singer **Luciana Souza**; and vocalists such as **Nicole Cabell**, **Jonita Lattimore**, **Jason Grant**, and **Bryan Griffin**. The roster of renowned guest conductors leading the Grant Park Orchestra includes **Hans Graf** of the Houston Symphony; Switzerland's **Gilbert Varga**, most recently of the Basque National Symphony Orchestra in Spain; **Kirill Karabits** of the Bournemouth Symphony (UK); **Juanjo Mena** of Norway's Bergen Philharmonic; and **Pietari Inkinen** of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

Special 75th Season concert programming includes the **World Premiere performance of Michael Torke's *Plans*** for Orchestra and Chorus, commissioned by the Grant Park Music Festival to serve as the opening event for the city-wide Burnham Plan Centennial celebration (June 19 & 20); and a live **re-creation of the first-ever orchestral concert of the Grant Park Music Festival** from July 1, 1935 (July 1).

Of note, the Grant Park Music Festival commemorates its rich history in Chicago with the release of a collector's edition coffee table book, **Sounds of Chicago's Lakefront: a Celebration of the Grant Park Music Festival** (\$39.95, Chicago's Neighborhoods, Inc.) by local Chicago historian Neal Samors. To be released on July 1, in conjunction with the official 75th season commemorative concert, **Sounds of Chicago's Lakefront** features over 200 pages of never-before-published photographs and interviews with more than fifty renowned artists and important Chicago figures. In addition to the Grant Park Music Festival, **Sounds of Chicago's Lakefront** will present the rich musical legacy of Grant Park, the Petrillo Band Shell, and The Jay Pritzker Pavilion – all part of the city's storied front yard. Written by Chicago historian Neal Samors, Chicago Park District historian Julia Bachrach and the Grant Park Music Festival Staff, this stunning book also features anecdotes from audience members and snapshots of how the culture of attending Grant Park Music Festival's outdoor concerts has changed over the past 75 years.

Beginning with Tchaikovsky on Opening Night, the Grant Park Music Festival offers audible delights throughout the summer. The Grant Park Music Festival launches its Gala 75th Season with pianist **Stephen Hough** performing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1, as well as one of classical music's "greatest hits," *Pictures at an Exhibition* composed by Mussorgsky, June 10. The Chorus performs its first concert of the season, joining the Grant Park Orchestra to perform Bernstein's *On the Waterfront: Symphonic Suite* and Shostakovich's *Song of the Forest*, op. 81 with tenor **John Horton Murray**, bass **Denis Sedov** and the **Chicago Children's Choir**, June 12 and the Orchestra and Chorus return with performances of *On the Waterfront* and *Pictures at an Exhibition*, plus Kernis' *Too Hot Toccata*, in a special engagement at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, June 13. Violinist **James Ehnes** guests on a program featuring Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, Walton's Violin Concerto and the Fantasia on *Greensleeves* by Vaughan Williams, June 17.

Certain to be one of the most exciting highlights of the season will be the World Premiere performance of Michael Torke's *Plans* for Orchestra and Chorus, commissioned by the Grant Park Music Festival to serve as the opening event for the city-wide Burnham Plan Centennial celebration, June 19 & 20. Also on the bill will be Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 with pianist **Jon Kimura Parker**, while soprano **Jonita Lattimore** and tenor **Bryan Griffin** will be the soloists featured in *Plans*. Other June highlights include an authentic Mariachi from Mexico concert, June 24; a program of works by American composers, including Corigliano, Copland and Barber, at the Harris Theater, June 30 and July 2.

On July 1, the city is invited to officially celebrate the Grant Park Music Festival's 75th Season with a special commemorative concert re-creation of the very first orchestral program performed at the Grant Park Music Festival on July 1, 1935, including works by Wagner, Liszt and Strauss. Bruckner's Symphony No. 4, with guest conductor **Hans Graf**, will be presented July 8; followed by a light opera double treat, selections from Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado* and *Pirates of Penzance*, performed by the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus, July 10 & 11. Guest conductor **Gilbert Varga** leads the Orchestra in a dance and fairy tale-themed program, including Ravel's Mother Goose Suite, July 15 & 18, while guest conductor Kirill Karabits leads the Orchestra in selections from Khachaturian's *Spartacus* July 17. Grant Park Music Festival will present a sultry Latin-themed collaboration between famous Brazilian jazz singer **Luciana Souza**, Chicago's **Luna Negra Dance Theater**, and the Grant Park Orchestra, July 22 & 24.

Themed with the City's popular Venetian Night celebration, Grant Park Music Festival's annual Divertimento benefit will feature a concert program of hits from the opera world, followed by a carnivale-themed celebration at the new Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago, July 25. **Juanjo Mena** is guest conductor for the Italianesque event, with soprano **Nicole Cabell** and tenor **Russell Thomas**. The month concludes with a performance of Sibelius' Symphony No. 1 under Guest Conductor **Pietari Inkinen**, July 29, and the return of Maestro Kalmar for an Orchestra and Chorus performance of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, July 31 & August 1.

Works by Mendelssohn & Haydn are showcased in concert, with guest pianist **Ingrid Fliter** performing Shumann's Piano Concerto, August 5, followed by Mahler's 9th Symphony at the Harris Theater, August 7 & 8; a mixed repertoire program, August 12; and to culminate the Gala 75th Season, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, with soprano **Amber Wagner**, mezzo soprano **Kathryn Leemhuis**, and bass **Jason Grant**, August 14 & 15.

Grant Park Music Festival Gala 75th Season Schedule:

All concerts take place at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion unless otherwise noted

TCHAIKOVSKY ON OPENING NIGHT

Wednesday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, Conductor; Stephen Hough, Piano

KEY/Arr. Toscanini	Star Spangled Banner
TCHAIKOVSKY	Piano Concerto No. 1
MUSSORGSKY	Pictures at an Exhibition

BERNSTEIN ON THE WATERFRONT

Friday, June 12 at 5:30 p.m. * Note start time

Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus; Carlos Kalmar, Conductor; Christopher Bell, Chorus Director; John Horton Murray, Tenor; Denis Sedov, Bass; Chicago Children's Choir

KERNIS	Too Hot Toccata
BERNSTEIN	On the Waterfront: Symphonic Suite
SHOSTAKOVICH	Song of the Forests, op. 81

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

Saturday, June 13 at 7:30 p.m.

***Harris Theater for Music and Dance**

Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus; Carlos Kalmar, Conductor

KERNIS	Too Hot Toccata
BERNSTEIN	On the Waterfront: Symphonic Suite
MUSSORGSKY	Pictures at an Exhibition

ENIGMA VARIATIONS

Wednesday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, Conductor; James Ehnes, Violin

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS	Fantasia on Greensleeves
WALTON	Violin Concerto
ELGAR	Enigma Variations, Op. 36

FROM 1909: BURNHAM'S PLAN AND RACHMANINOFF'S 3rd

Friday, June 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 20 at 7:30pm

Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus; Carlos Kalmar, Conductor; Christopher Bell, Chorus Director; Jon Kimura Parker, Piano; Jonita Lattimore, Soprano; Bryan Griffin, Tenor

RACHMANINOFF	Piano Concerto No. 3, Op. 30
TORKE	Plans

MARIACHI FROM MEXICO

Wednesday, June 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, Conductor

SOUNDS OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Friday, June 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m.

***Harris Theater for Music and Dance**

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, Conductor

MADE IN AMERICA

Tuesday, June 30 at 6:30 p.m. *Note day change

Thursday, July 2 at 6:30 p.m.

***Harris Theater for Music and Dance**

Grant Park Chorus; Christopher Bell, Chorus Director;

HOVHANESS	A Rose Tree Blossoms
CORIGLIANO	L'invitation au voyage
LAURIDSEN	Nocturnes: Soneto de la Noche
COPLAND	Four Motets
CRABTREE	Five Romantic Miniatures (from the Simpsons)
BARBER	Sure on this Shining Night
SAMETZ	I Have Had Singing

GALA 75TH SEASON CONCERT

Wednesday, July 1 at 8:00 p.m. * Note start time

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, Conductor

WAGNER	Tannhäuser: Arrival of the Guests at the Wartburg
THOMAS	Mignon: Overture
ALFVEN	Midsommarvaka, Op.19 (Midsummer Vigil; Swedish Rhapsody No. 1)
GLAZUNOV	Ruses d'Amour Ballet Suite (Introduction, Valse and Grand Pas des Fiances)
LISZT	Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2
POWELL	Natchez-On-The-Hill, Three Virginia Country Dances
GERMAN	Henry VIII: Three Dances (Morris Dance, Shepherd's Dance and Torch Dance)
J. STRAUSS, JR.	On the Beautiful Blue Danube Op. 314
MEACHAM	American Patrol March

BRUCKNER'S 4th

Wednesday, July 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Grant Park Orchestra; Hans Graf, Conductor

BRUCKNER	Symphony No. 4
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PIRATES OF PENZANCE AND THE MIKADO

Friday, July 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus; Christopher Bell, Conductor

DANCES AND FAIRYTALES

Wednesday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Grant Park Orchestra; Gilbert Varga, Conductor

OFFENBACH	Orpheus in the Underworld: Overture
FRANCK	Le Chasseur Maudit
RAVEL	Mother Goose Suite
ROUSSEL	Bacchus et Arianne Suite No.2

KHACHATURIAN'S SPARTACUS

Friday, July 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Grant Park Orchestra; Kirill Karabits, Conductor; Karen Gomyo, Violin

SILVESTROV	Serenade of Parting
SHOSTAKOVICH	Violin Concerto No. 1, Opus 99
KHACHATURIAN	Suite from Spartacus
	1. Introduction and Dance of Nymphs

2. Introduction, Adagio of Aegina and Harmodius (The Entrance of Harmodius-
Adagio of Aegina and Harmodius)
3. Variations of Aegina and Bacchanalia
4. Scene and Dance with Crotalums
5. Adagio Of Spartacus And Phrygia
6. Dance of the Gaditanian Maidens and Victory of Spartacus

LUNA NEGRA DANCE THEATER AND LUCIANA SOUZA

Wednesday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, July 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, Conductor; Luciana Souza, Vocals; Luna Negra Dance Theater, Eduardo Vilaro, Artistic Director

OPERA HITS ON VENETIAN NIGHT

Saturday, July 25 at 6:30 p.m. * Note start time

Grant Park Orchestra; Juanjo Mena, Conductor; Nicole Cabell, Soprano; Russell Thomas, Tenor

SIBELIUS SYMPHONY NO. 1

Wednesday, July 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Grant Park Orchestra; Pietari Inkinen, Conductor

PÄRT	Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten
RAUTAVAARA	Cantus Arcticus: Concerto for Birds and Orchestra
SILBELIUS	Symphony No. 1

THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS

Friday, July 31 at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus; Carlos Kalmar, Conductor; Christopher Bell, Chorus Director; TBD Mezzo Soprano; Tenor; Bass

ELGAR	The Dream of Gerontius
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MENDELSSOHN & HAYDN

Wednesday, August 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar; Conductor; Ingrid Fliter, Piano

MENDELSSOHN	Overture to Ruy Blas, Op. 95
SCHUMANN	Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 54
HAYDN	Symphony No. 103, E-flat major

MAHLER'S 9th

Friday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 8 at 7:30 p.m.

***Harris Theater for Music and Dance**

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, Conductor

MAHLER	Symphony No. 9
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ITALIAN VERSIONS

Wednesday, August 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, Conductor

BERIO	Ritirata notturna di Madrid (after Boccherini)
BRITTEN	Matinées musicales, Opus 24 (after Rossini)
STRAUSS	Aus Italien, Opus 16

BEETHOVEN'S 9th

Friday, August 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus; Carlos Kalmar, Conductor; Amber Wagner, Soprano; Kathryn Leemhuis, Mezzo Soprano; TBD Tenor; Jason Grant, Bass

BEETHOVEN

Symphony No. 9, op. 125

Membership Information, Ticket Prices and Additional Programming

All **Grant Park Music Festival** performances are free to the public. Open lawn and pavilion seating are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Season memberships to the Festival are available, which include reserved seating or access to reserved sections for all concerts as well as invitations to special events. "Wednesday, Friday and Saturday Select Series" memberships are also available and feature access to the reserved seating section for 8 Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday concerts this season. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday Select Series memberships are an alternative for those interested in either attending on a particular day of the week or looking for an extremely affordable membership option. Reserved group seating is also available for most concerts. Membership and group sales information is available by calling 312-742-7638 or by visiting the Festival's website at www.grantparkmusicfestival.com.

About Grant Park Music Festival

Acclaimed by critics and beloved by audiences, the **Grant Park Music Festival** is the nation's only remaining free, municipally-supported, outdoor summer classical music series of its kind. The Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, located between Michigan and Columbus Avenues, at Washington Street, is the official home of the Grant Park Music Festival. Founded by the Chicago Park District in 1935 and co-presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Grant Park Orchestral Association since 2001, the **Grant Park Music Festival** will present over 30 concerts between June 10 and August 15, 2009, typically on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Convenient parking is located in the Millennium Park Garage (entrance on Columbus at Monroe or Randolph) and at the Grant Park North and East Monroe Garages, all located within walking distance to Millennium Park.

The **Grant Park Music Festival** is proudly presented by the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Grant Park Orchestral Association. American Airlines as the Official Airline, The Fairmont Chicago as the Official Hotel, and The Boeing Company is the Lead Corporate Gala Sponsor. Other season sponsors and foundations include: Commonwealth Edison Company, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Mexico Tourism Board, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Alphawood Foundation, Julius N. Frankel Foundation.

About Millennium Park

Millennium Park is an award-winning center for art, music, architecture and landscape design. The result of a unique partnership between the City of Chicago and philanthropic community, the 24.5 acre park features the work of world-renowned architects, planners, artists and designers. In addition to the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States, the Park's prominent features include the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; the contemporary Lurie Garden designed by the team of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture. Since opening in June 2004, Millennium Park has welcomed more than 16 million people, making it one of the most popular destinations in Chicago.

For more information regarding the **Grant Park Music Festival's** Gala 75th Season; the commemorative book, [Sounds of Chicago's Lakefront: A Celebration of the Grant Park Music Festival](#), or any other questions, please call the Grant Park Music Festival at 312-742-7638 or visit the Festival's website at www.grantparkmusicfestival.com. Concert information is subject to change.

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Editor's Note: A historical background on the Grant Park Music Festival is attached.