

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
NEWS RELEASE

CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER • 78 EAST WASHINGTON STREET • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

TEL: (312)744-6630 • FAX: (312) 742-2783 • TTY: (312)744-2947 • www.cityofchicago.org/CulturalAffairs/

March 30, 2010

MEDIA CONTACTS

Contact: Christine Carrino, 312.742.1148
christine.carrino@cityofchicago.org

Contact: Anneliese DeDiemar, 312.744.2121
anneliese.dediemar@cityofchicago.org

MUSIC WITHOUT BORDERS

FROM MALAWI TO MEXICO, EIGHT INTERNATIONAL CONCERTS TRAVEL TO MILLENNIUM PARK JUNE 3—JULY 22, 2010

CHICAGO, March 30 – Sample the City’s ongoing year-round celebration of international music when **Music Without Borders** returns to the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in **Millennium Park** for its fifth summer. Presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Millennium Park, the series expands this year to include eight double-bill concerts, beginning Thursday, **June 3** and closing **July 22, 2010**, featuring traditional folk and pop artists from around the globe.

The free concert series features music spanning four continents—Europe, Africa, South America and Asia—with nine groups making their Chicago debut at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park.

Music Without Borders is supported by grants from the Governor's International Arts Exchange Program of the Illinois Arts Council and The Chicago Community Trust. United Airlines is the Official Airline and the Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park is the Official Hotel of **Music Without Borders**.

The complete lineup includes:

Thursday, June 3 at 6:30pm

Balkan Beat Box with The Very Best

Summer kicks off with the sounds of the Balkan Beat Box and the Mediterranean-influenced music that incorporates traditions from Eastern Europe and the Middle East. The pop, dance and indie sounds of **The Very Best** featuring Malawian’s Esau Mwamwaya singing in Chichewa, Swahili, Portugese and English open the night, in a without-borders approach to music-making only possible in the 21st century.

For more information about these artists, visit:

<http://www.balkanbeatbox.com>

<http://www.myspace.com/theverybestmyspace>

Thursday, June 10 at 6:30pm

Bassekou Kouyate & Ngoni Ba

Bassekou Kouyate, a virtuoso of the ngoni (West African lute) and his band, **Ngoni Ba**, seamlessly blend contemporary jazz, blues, rock, bluegrass and pop influences with Afro-beat and the centuries old traditions of the griots of Mali. To end the night, they team with

blues legends **Otis Taylor, Eddie Shaw** and **Hubert Sumlin** to celebrate the centennial of Howlin' Wolf's birth in collaboration with the Chicago Blues Festival.

For more information about this artist, visit:

<http://www.myspace.com/bassekoukouyate>

Thursday, June 17 at 6:30pm

Dandana: A Celebration of Muslim Voices featuring Tinariwen with Monajat Yulchieva

Tinariwen returns to Chicago combining traditional Touareg melodies with blues, rock, Berber and Arabic influences to create spare, hypnotic, trance-like songs. Beginning the evening's musical celebration with her Chicago debut is **Monajat Yulchieva**, the leading performer of traditional Uzbek music, combining Sufi poetry with classical maqâm repertoire. Presented with IMAN (Inner-City Muslim Action Network) and the 2010 Takin' it to the Streets Festival in Marquette Park.

For more information about these artists, visit:

<http://www.tinariwen.com>

<http://womad.org/artists/monajat-yulchieva/>

Thursday, June 24 at 6:30pm

Noche Mexicana: Doc Severinsen and El Ritmo de la Vida with Sones de Mexico Ensemble

Former Tonight Show music director and Grammy award-winning trumpeter **Doc Severinsen** brings his latest project, "The Rhythm of Life", to the Park for a night of Mexican music and sizzling Latin rhythms, mixing Argentine tango, Spanish flamenco and gypsy jazz. The musical celebration begins with Chicago's own **Sones de México**, an ensemble dedicated to Mexican folkloric music including huapango, gustos and son jarocho. This concert is sponsored by the Mexican Tourism Board.

For more information about these artists, visit:

<http://www.opus3artists.com/artists/doc-severinsen-and-el-ritmo-de-la-vida>

<http://www.sonesdemexico.com/>

Thursday, July 1 at 7:30pm

Orchestre Septentrional d'Haiti with Batata y Las Alegres Ambulancias

The *Haitian Fireball* and its big band of thirteen musicians bring the sounds of merengue, konpa and bolero to the stage when they make their Chicago debut in Millennium Park.

Opening first are the masters of the oral tradition, **Batata y Las Alegres Ambulancias**, with their distinct Afro-Caribbean sound presenting Colombia's legends, languages, stories, and songs that derive from their African ancestry. This program is supported by the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation Endowment, managed by Millennium Park Inc.

For more information about these artists, visit:

<http://www.orchestreseptentrionaldhaiti.com/>

<http://www.myspace.com/alegresambulanciasdepalenque>

Thursday, July 8 at 6:30pm

Dobet Gnahore with Victor Deme

Singer, dancer and percussionist **Dobet Gnahore** is Africa's leading star on the rise, drawing heavily on the traditional music of the Ivory Coast, but creating a diverse, Pan-African pop-influenced sound all her own. First on stage is **Victor Deme** with his Chicago debut, a folk blues singer/songwriter, from Burkina Faso, West Africa, whose program is rife with intimate Mandingo ballads, Latin, salsa and flamenco influences.

For more information about these artists, visit:

<http://www.contrejour.com/artists/Dobet/>

<http://www.myspace.com/victordeme>

Thursday, July 15 at 6:30pm

Orchestre Poly-Rythmo de Cotonou with La 33

The **Orchestre Poly-Rythmo de Cotonou's** psychedelic guitar grooves and funky organ sounds journey from Benin to the Millennium Park stage for their Chicago debut on their first U.S. tour. Their inimitably vintage sound is gaining much international acclaim, and igniting dance floors all over the globe. Opening the night are the irresistible new-wave salsa sounds of Colombia's **La 33** with their premiere Chicago performance.

For more information about these artists, visit:

<http://www.la-33.com/>

<http://www.myspace.com/analogafrica>

Thursday, July 22 at 6:30pm

Renato Borghetti with Boris Malkovsky & The Agam Ensemble

Two Chicago premieres close out the series. Accompanied by an 8 button accordion, Brazil's **Renato Borghetti** plays traditional gaúcho music, along with jazz and classical styles mixed with milonga, chamamé, vanerão, tango, baião and samba. Israeli pianist and bayan (button accordion) player, **Boris Malkovsky**, takes the stage first as he blends traditional Jewish themes and jazz improvisation with Gypsy and classical. Additional support for this concert has been provided by the Consulate General of Brazil in Chicago and the Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest.

For more information about these artists, visit:

<http://www.renatoborghetti.com.br/>

<http://www.myspace.com/borismalkovsky>

About Millennium Park

Millennium Park is located in the heart of downtown Chicago. It is bordered by Michigan Ave. to the west, Columbus Dr. to the east, Randolph St. to the north and Monroe St. to the south. 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 a short walking distance of Millennium Park.

Millennium Park, managed and programmed by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, is an award-winning center for art, music, architecture and landscape design. The result of a unique partnership between the City of Chicago and the philanthropic community, the 24.5-acre park features the work of world-renowned architects, planners, artists and designers. Among Millennium Park's prominent features are the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; 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 its opening in July 2004, Millennium Park has welcomed more than 20 million people, making it one of the most popular destinations in Chicago.

For more information about **Music Without Borders** and all of the programming in Millennium Park, visit <http://www.millenniumpark.org>, call 312.742.1168, or visit Millennium Park on Facebook.

###