

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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## ***ARCTIC: SOUNDSCAPE***

### **REMARKABLE AUDIO/VIDEO INSTALLATION IN MILLENNIUM PARK**

#### Highlight of the 2007 Chicago Humanities Festival “The Climate of Concern”

For the first time this fall, Millennium Park’s Jay Pritzker Pavilion and Great Lawn will be home to a remarkable outdoor audio/video installation. *Arctic: Soundscape* is part of the Chicago Humanities Festival 2007, “The Climate of Concern.” A collaboration between composer Max Eastley and video artist David Buckland, *Arctic* combines chilling video footage with sounds recorded on the Arctic island of Spitsbergen, reassembled into an hour-long sound and video spectacular.

Max Eastley’s *Arctic* will be played over the speakers of the Park’s Jay Pritzker Pavilion and Great Lawn from 9am – 10pm on November 3, 4, 10 and 11. From 5pm – 10pm, David Buckland’s visual complement will be screened on the closed glass doors of the Pavilion. Audiences are invited to experience the installation from the Pavilion’s red fixed seats, or on the Great Lawn. Admission is free.

*Arctic* features the calls of vast bird colonies, the underwater songs of bearded seal and walrus, the epic and powerful groans of cracking glaciers, the throb of ship’s engines, the sweep of chilly winds and the minute sounds of air pockets trapped in ice for thousands of years and released in a brief moment.

Buckland’s visual complement references the fragility and stunning cold beauty of the ice. Together the artists have created an artwork on a grand scale that reflects the deep impact this pristine arctic wilderness, now imperiled by climate change, has had on them.

*Arctic* was created as part of the Cape Farewell Project, which brings artists, scientists and educators together to collectively address and raise awareness about climate change. Cape Farewell has led three expeditions into the wild, beautiful and icy High Arctic, a place for artistic inspiration and scientific enquiry.

#### **Special Performance By Composer Max Eastley**

A highlight of the *Arctic: Soundscape* installation will be a LIVE performance by composer Max Eastley At 7:30pm on Saturday, November 10. Eastley will play an extended solo on his “bow monochord,” a hauntingly beautiful-sounding single-string electro/acoustic instrument that he invented, to complement – and comment on –

*Arctic's* recorded soundscape and visual projections. The performance will take place in front of the Park's Jay Pritzker Pavilion. Admission is free.

### **Film Screening in the Chicago Cultural Center**

From 12pm – 4pm on November 3, 4, 10 and 11, the Chicago Cultural Center, located at 78 E. Washington Street, will be hosting free screenings of the documentary film *Art From A Changing Arctic* in the First Floor Garland Room.

Edited from more than 200 hours of footage, this 60-minute film documents the Cape Farewell expeditions. Witness the artists' response to the harsh environment and their take on the very visible impacts of climate change on the extraordinary yet vulnerable Arctic landscape.

*Art From A Changing Arctic* was shown as part of *Climate Chaos* - a major season of BBC programs on the science behind and issues surrounding climate change. The film is directed by award-winning filmmaker David Hinton and produced by David Buckland.

For more information about *Arctic: Soundscape* or other free concerts and events in Millennium Park, please call 312-742-1168 or visit [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org).

### **About the Chicago Humanities Festival**

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual Chicago Humanities Festival, October 27 – November 11, 2007, presents "The Climate of Concern," a timely programming theme that resonates with the almost daily headlines about climate change, habitat degradation, species extinction, sustainability, and environmental justice. Through the disciplines of visual art, literature, music, film, philosophy/belief, cultural criticism, history, science, performance, and more, the Festival hopes to provide a broader context for the changes – some the result of our own choices – occurring all around us and sure to impact future generations.

"The Climate of Concern," including its Children's Humanities Festival counterpart "When I Grow Up," features over 140 programs showcased in nearly 30 venues throughout downtown Chicago and select neighborhoods. Tickets to most programs are only \$5.00, with students and educators admitted free. Tickets can be ordered by phone, 312.494.9509 or via the Chicago Humanities Festival website, [www.chfestival.org](http://www.chfestival.org).