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Millennium Park's Holiday Tradition Returns!

CAROLING AT CLOUD GATE

**Featuring Sing-Alongs with Chicago's Favorite Choral Groups
Friday Evenings from November 28 through December 19, 2008 at 6 PM**

Celebrate the holidays in Millennium Park, when Caroling at Cloud Gate returns on Friday evenings each week throughout the holiday season. Chicagoans and visitors alike are invited to Cloud Gate to hear the beautiful voices of four different Chicago choral groups, including the Apollo Chorus of Chicago, The Wooten Choral Ensemble, the Chicago Chamber Choir and the Chicago Children's Choir. and participate in a holiday sing-along.

Caroling at Cloud Gate runs Friday evenings from November 28 through December 19, 2008. The singing will begin at 6pm and run approximately 50 minutes. Admission is free.

"Now in its third year, Caroling at Cloud Gate has truly become a cherished winter tradition in Chicago. Each week, we have hundreds of singers gathering in the Park, creating a magical holiday scene in the center of the city," said Lois Weisberg, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs.

After the holiday sing-along, everyone is encouraged to skate at Millennium Park's McCormick Tribune Ice Rink, one of the most popular winter destinations in the city.

For more information on Millennium Park or on Caroling at Cloud Gate visit www.millenniumpark.org or call 312.742.1168. The complete Caroling at Cloud Gate schedule is:

Friday, November 28

Apollo Chorus of Chicago

When the Apollo Chorus of Chicago sings, great choral works come alive! Founded in 1872 after the Great Chicago Fire, this powerful 150-voice chorus is one of the city's most exciting and talked-about musical organizations. Each season Apollo thrills audiences with beautiful music old and new, winning praise for its performances – especially for Handel's *Messiah*. The Apollo Chorus performs a wide range of masterworks for chorus and orchestra and is under the direction of Music Director and Conductor Stephen Alltop.

Friday, December 5**The Wooten Choral Ensemble**

The Wooten Choral Ensemble, founded in 1949, is the oldest community choir in the nation. The group boasts more than fifty members and has traveled extensively throughout the country. Its hallmark through the years has been expressing a spiritual message through anthems, hymns, black spirituals and gospel songs. The group has recorded several albums and appeared on many local radio and television programs. This performance will be conducted by Robert E. Wooten, Jr., son of the late founder Dr. Robert E. Wooten, Sr.

Friday, December 12**Chicago Chamber Choir**

Founded in 1996, the Chicago Chamber Choir is a skilled choral ensemble of 36 voices. The choir's mission is to promote the joy of choral music in its community by offering seasonal concerts and charitable performances that educate and entertain children and adults in the Chicagoland area. The choir's repertoire is culturally diverse and international in scope, and the group actively seeks performance venues that bring music to individuals who are often overlooked by the performing arts community. The philosophy that music should be available to everyone continues to be an integral part of the Chicago Chamber Choir's mission. This performance will be conducted by Timm Adams, Artistic Director.

Friday, December 19**Chicago Children's Choir**

The Chicago Children's Choir is a multiracial, multicultural choral music education organization dedicated to shaping the future by making a difference in the lives of children and youth through musical excellence. Today, The Chicago Children's Choir serves more than 3,000 young singers and is America's largest, most comprehensive organization devoted to the musical education of children. By developing musical skills and performing in public, the children acquire poise, increased self-esteem, and an understanding that discipline and hard work bring rewards.

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 to 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 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 opening in July 2004, Millennium Park has hosted more than 15 million people, making it one of the most popular destinations in Chicago.

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