

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Millennium Park's Holiday Tradition Returns!**

## **CAROLING AT CLOUD GATE**

Featuring Holiday Sing-Alongs with Chicago's Best Choral Groups

Friday Evenings from November 23 through December 21

On Friday nights throughout the holiday season, Millennium Park is home to the city's newest holiday tradition – **Caroling at Cloud Gate**. Chicagoans and visitors alike are invited to Cloud Gate, the city's newest icon, to hear the beautiful voices of a variety of choral groups and participate in a holiday sing-along.

Caroling at Cloud Gate runs Fridays from November 23 through December 21. The events begin at 6pm and run approximately 50 minutes. Admission is free.

Each evening during Caroling at Cloud Gate, both the choristers and those singing along will be invited to hold holiday candles. The reflection of the candles will twinkle in the stainless steel of Cloud Gate, creating a magical holiday scene in the center of the city.

Complimentary peppermint hot chocolate, peppermint mocha, and Christmas blend coffee, courtesy of Starbucks, will be available each evening.

After Caroling, guests are 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](http://www.millenniumpark.org) or call 312-742-1168:

The complete **Caroling at Cloud Gate** schedule is:

#### **Friday, November 23**

##### **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*. Last November, Apollo released its first-ever *Messiah* CD. Beyond *Messiah*, the Apollo Chorus performs a wide range of masterworks for

chorus and orchestra, under the direction of Music Director and Conductor Stephen Alltop.

**Friday, November 30**

**Chicago Gay Men's Chorus**

The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus has been an integral part of Chicago's cultural and gay communities since 1983. For the last two decades, CGMC has entertained audiences around the country with innovative musical programming, political commentary and tongue-in-cheek humor. The group has sung multiple performances of the National Anthem for the Chicago Cubs, and has recorded three CDs: *Cool Yule*, *I Will Be Loved Tonight*, and *Favorite Things*.

**Friday, December 7.**

**Bella Voce**

The magic of Bella Voce, Chicago's premiere a cappella chamber choir, resides in its ability to provide audiences with an experience that both moves and reveals, a combination that is approached in a very particular way. The ensemble's repertory largely bypasses the most commonly heard music of the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods, and concentrates primarily on the Renaissance and contemporary eras. The affinity between these two periods may not be immediately apparent, but in fact they share many aspects in common. Both have a particular interest in the sonorities of the a cappella voice. Both also revel in unusual, open, often dissonant harmonies rarely heard in the intervening centuries. This year marks Bella Voce's 25th anniversary.

**Friday, December 14**

**Chicago Mass Choir (Gospel)**

The *Chicago Mass Choir* is a component of the ECC Music Workshop, which was organized by the late James C. Chambers in 1988 in Chicago, Illinois. The choir consists of dedicated members from various denominations, including ministers and evangelists who have made the Word of God foremost in their music and their lives as well. The *Chicago Mass Choir* is a nationally acclaimed recording group and has been nominated for multiple Grammy and Stellar Awards. The choir is under the leadership of Dr. Feranda B. Williamson, President/CEO, and musical direction of Percy Gray, Jr.

**Friday, December 21**

**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.