

NEWS RELEASE

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MADE IN CHICAGO: HOME COOKED JAZZ

FREE SUMMER MUSIC SERIES RETURNS FOR A THIRD SEASON AT MILLENNIUM PARK



Dee Alexander



Dave Specter



Myra Melford



Orbert Davis



Nicole Mitchell

SIX FREE CONCERTS FEATURING CHICAGO'S BEST JAZZ PERFORMERS AT THE JAY PRITZKER PAVILION, JULY AND AUGUST 2007

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, Millennium Park, along with the Jazz Institute of Chicago, present the savory sounds of Chicago jazz during six free concerts at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion this summer. *Made in Chicago: Home Cooked Jazz* highlights Chicago's own jazz musicians who explore everything from the roots of blues and ragtime to big band swing and beyond. For more information, call 312.742.1168 or visit www.millenniumpark.org.

Made in Chicago: Home Cooked Jazz takes place in July and August. The sixth concert, on Monday, August 27, kicks off "Jazz Week," culminating with the Chicago Jazz Festival, which takes place August 30 through September 2, 2007. *Made in Chicago: Home Cooked Jazz* is supported by the Chicago Jazz Partnership: The Boeing Company, Kraft Foods, The Joyce Foundation, JP Morgan Chase, and The Chicago Community Trust and United Airlines, the Official Airline for *Made in Chicago*. The Fairmont Chicago is the Official Hotel for *Made in Chicago*.

"Millennium Park is pleased to host this signature series for the third year," added Millennium Park Executive Director Helen Doria. "We are grateful to our sponsors for their continued support of Chicago jazz artists and the amazing music they offer Millennium Park audiences each summer. Chicago jazz artists are known around the world, but in the end, there's nothing like playing to your hometown audience."

"One of the delights of programming this series is the ability to approach our city's world class artists and offer them free reign to create new work composed specifically for Millennium Park," said Jazz Institute of Chicago Executive Director Lauren Deutsch. "The end result has quickly proved to the world that the jazz musicians of Chicago are second to none. This year's series shines a light on the women whose voices have eloquently contributed to the musical conversation we call jazz."

NEW THIS YEAR

Each *Made in Chicago* concert will open with short sets featuring the best and brightest of Chicago's youngest jazz talent – the next generation of jazz.

South Shore Youth Jazz Ensemble | Thursday, July 26

Celebrating its 12th anniversary as part of the CPD Teen Arts Internship program, the South Shore Youth Jazz Ensemble is a Chicago Park District program under the management of the Environment, Culture and Special Events Department.

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Gallery 37 After School Matters Jazz Band | Thursday, August 2

Founded in 1997, The Gallery 37 After School Matters Jazz Band, co-sponsored by the Merit School of Music, is a big band comprised of high school age musicians from throughout the city, under the direction of Chip Gdalmann Roger Harris.

Jazz Institute of Chicago's Jazz Links Ensemble | August 9, 16, 23, and 27

The Jazz Links program matches veterans with young aspiring musicians in and out of school. Members of the Jazz Links Student Council are featured in ensembles performing throughout the year and are mentored by Jon Faddis and the Chicago Jazz Ensemble.

FULL SCHEDULE

Great Black Music Ensemble: Tribute to Fletcher Henderson

Thursday, July 26, 6:30 pm



A bandleader in the 1930s, Fletcher Henderson is considered by many to be the *real* King of Swing, having been left in the shadow of his contemporary, Benny Goodman. AACM Chicago's **Great Black Music Ensemble**, under the direction of **Mwata Bowden** pays tribute to Henderson's contributions with contemporary arrangements penned by **Burgess Gardner, Nicole Mitchell, Edward Wilkerson, Jr., Douglas Ewart** and **Mwata Bowden**. Joining the ensemble will be two contemporaries of Henderson, saxophone heroes **Von Freeman** and **Franz Jackson**.

Dave Specter's Blues/Jazz Summit Chicago I

Thursday, August 2, 6:30 pm



Bluesman Dave Specter (pictured) has one foot in blues and the other in jazz. His newly formed big band is comprised of blues and jazz musicians making full use of the fact that blues is the foundation that jazz was built upon. Special guests include **Sharon Lewis, Billy Branch, Ari Brown, Jimmy Johnson**, and **Chris Foreman**.

Nicole Mitchell's Black Earth Orchestra: Tribute to Alice Coltrane with special guest Myra Melford

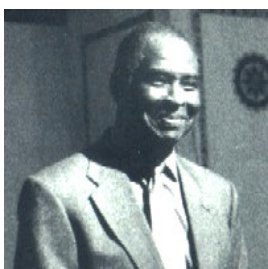
Thursday, August 9, 6:30 pm



Highly critically acclaimed flautist and composer **Nicole Mitchell** (pictured left) is rising fast. Her large and small ensembles have performed all over the world in recent years, and Mitchell continues to mesmerize audiences with her lyricism and airy spontaneity. Teamed with long-time cohorts **Harrison Bankhead** on bass, **Hamid Drake** on percussion, and **Maia** on harp, Mitchell has also invited Chicago born pianist **Myra Melford** (pictured right) to join her in honoring one of the most inspiring women in jazz, Alice Coltrane.

Legends and Lions: Ragtime and Beyond

Thursday, August 16, 6:30 pm



Legend **Muhai Richard Abrams** (pictured left) is a world-renowned composer and pianist originally from Chicago, now residing in New York. A lifelong student of experimentation, he is one of the creators and foremost practitioners of creative improvised music. He has developed a highly respected command of a variety of musical styles both as a pianist and composer. The versatile Abrams and members of The Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM), of which he is co-founder, are responsible for some of the most original new music approaches of the last two decades. Young Lion **Reginald Robinson** (pictured right) recently won the MacArthur Fellowship in recognition of his brilliant and largely self-taught pianism. He is a young man writing contemporary ragtime compositions that are completely authentic in form, yet utterly contemporary and fresh to the ear. Launching a new direction in his career, he will be performing a selection of his original compositions accompanied by **The Fulcrum Point New Music Ensemble** with orchestrations by **Stephen Burns**.

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Sirens of Song: Dee Alexander's Tribute to Nina Simone and Dinah Washington

Thursday, August 23, 6:30 pm



Vocalist **Dee Alexander** (pictured) is one of Chicago's hidden treasures. Known as a "musician's musician" she's capable of tuning her instrument in myriad ways. She can be seen fronting a big band singing Gershwin or her own Evolution Quartet, where her range of creative experimentation to well loved standards sets her apart from most of her contemporaries. *Sirens of Song* pays tribute to Alexander's musical influences including the wide-ranging Nina Simone and native Chicago blues and jazz diva Dinah Washington.

Chicago Jazz Philharmonic On Tap: Songs from the Chicago Songbook

Monday, August 27, 6:30 pm



Orbert Davis' (pictured) 50-plus piece orchestra is one of the most versatile large orchestras anywhere and certainly Chicago's most adventurous unit. This concert acknowledges the diverse writing and song styling originating from the windy city, featuring **Maggie Brown, Jackie Allen, Terisa Griffin**. Also featured is **Lane Alexander's Chicago Human Rhythm Project**, collaborating with the orchestra on an original composition written expressly to integrate tap as a percussive musical voice. This concert kicks off "Jazz Week," culminating with the Chicago Jazz Festival, which takes place August 30 through September 2, 2007.

About Millennium Park

Millennium Park is located in the heart of downtown Chicago. It is bordered by Michigan Avenue to the east, Columbus Drive to the west, Randolph Street to the north and Monroe Street 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 Nichols, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture. Since its opening in July 2004, Millennium Park has hosted millions of people, making it one of the most popular destinations in Chicago.

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