

NEWS RELEASE

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MADE IN CHICAGO: WORLD CLASS JAZZ

**FREE SUMMER MUSIC SERIES RETURNS FOR A FIFTH, SIZZLING SEASON AT MILLENNIUM PARK;
SIX FREE CONCERTS FEATURING A RANGE OF JAZZ STYLES FROM CHICAGO'S LEADING ARTISTS**

JULY 30 – SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

www.MillenniumPark.org

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Jazz Institute of Chicago proudly present the popular *Made in Chicago: World Class Jazz* series featuring Chicago's leading jazz artists. The series of six concerts highlights a range of styles – from Eastern Indian beats to Western BeBop classics – all performed by musicians with strong Chicago connections. The series kicks off with a tribute to American Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama on Thursday, July 30 at 6:30 pm. While each of the following 5 concerts are internationally inspired, they all have true Chicago stamp.

Every *Made in Chicago: World Class Jazz* concert kicks off with a short set by young, aspiring musicians from Chicago-area high schools as part of the Jazz Institute of Chicago's Jazz Links Student Ensembles. For more information about the series, call 312.742.1168 or visit www.millenniumpark.org.

Made in Chicago: World Class Jazz is supported by the Chicago Jazz Partnership: The Boeing Company Charitable Trust, Kraft Foods, The Chicago Community Trust, and The Joyce Foundation. United Airlines is the Official Airline and The Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park is the Official Hotel for *Made in Chicago*.

Concert Schedule

Thursday, July 30, 6:30 pm

Echoes of Dreams and Inspiration:

Chicago Improvisers Orchestra Presents *Lincolniana* and *Sounds of Hope Suite*



Celebrating the convergence of two historic moments rooted in the art of democracy, composers [Elbio Barilari](#) (pictured in foreground) and [Kahil El' Zabar](#) present a tribute to Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama, featuring the Chicago Improvisers Orchestra with special guests [Orbert Davis](#), [Maggie Brown](#), [Henry Godinez](#) and more. Premiered on the historic day of Obama's inauguration, *Sounds of Hope* is an inspiring production mastered by twenty of Chicago's most prominent jazz musicians. El' Zabar and Barilari have brought together musicians from all corners of the city. "This is about musicians from the North and South Sides coming together," said El'Zabar. "We have more in common than we have apart." The second tribute, *Lincolniana*, is an elegant fusion of history, poetry,

jazz and a little mariachi. Barilari's score honors President Lincoln and the defining role he played in our history.

The Band includes Orbert Davis and Jaimie Brunch (trumpets), Jeb Bishop and Norman Palm (trombone), Ernest Dawkins, Guillermo Gregorio (alto saxes), Jim Gailloreto, Jeff Marx (tenor saxes), Steve Eisen (baritone sax), Dan Cray (piano); Eric Hochberg (double bass), Ernie Adams (drums) and Ruben Alvarez (percussion). [Sones de Mexico](#) includes

Juan Rivera (vocals and guitar), Victor Pichardo (vocals and violin) and Zacbe Pichardo (vocals and harp). [The Hawk String Quartet](#) includes Katherine Hughes (violin), Carol Kalvonjian (violin), Benton Wedge (viola), Jill Keading (cello), Maggie Brown (vocals on *Sounds of Hope*) and Henry Godinez (narrator on *Lincolniana*).

Thursday, August 6, 6:30 pm

Rudresh Mahanthappa's Chicago Legacy Ensemble featuring Bunky Green



Mahanthappa (pictured left) has been heralded as one of jazz's fastest rising stars. In exploring his Indian roots, he has managed to bring to the fore music that emanates from his past. For much of recent history, Bunky Green's (pictured right) music has been reserved for his students, so the thrilling prospect of having him perform on the second night of the series is only heightened by the anticipation of the collaboration with Mahanthappa. The concert features [Rudresh Mahanthappa](#) (alto saxophone), [Bunky Green](#) (alto saxophone), Tito Carrillo (trumpet), Ryan

Shultz (bass trumpet), Ron Perrillo (piano), François Moutin (acoustic bass) and Eric Montzka (drums).

Thursday, August 13, 6:30 pm

WORLD PREMIERE

Sketches of Brazil: Robert Irving III's Tribute to Miles Davis and Gil Evans



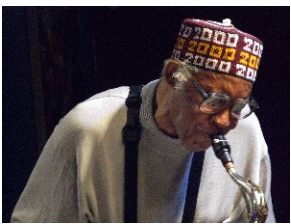
Composer, pianist and educator [Robert Irving III](#) (pictured) conducts the newly formed Sonic Portraits Orchestra in the world premiere of *Sketches of Brazil*. The piece is an orchestral homage to his mentors, **Miles Davis** and **Gil Evans**, on the 50th anniversary of the recording of the pair's classic, *Sketches of Spain*. Having been a close friend and band member with Miles Davis for over a decade, Irving holds the rare position of playing a Davis classic from an insider's perspective. The concert features Robert Irving III (composer, conductor, piano); Sonic Portraits Orchestra (a blend of 33 classical and jazz musicians); Wallace Roney (trumpet, flugelhorn); [Fareed Haque](#) (guitar), [Dede Sampaio](#)

(percussion), Felipe Fraga (percussion), Charles Heath (percussion) and Miles Evans (trumpet). For more information about this project, visit <http://sketchesofbrazil.com>

Special panel: Earlier that day from noon to 1:30 pm, the Chicago Cultural Center hosts a panel "50 Years from *Sketches of Spain* to *Sketches of Brazil*: A Symposium on the legacy of Miles Davis & Gil Evans" in the Claudia Cassidy Theater. Admission is free and open to the public. Professor Fareed Haque moderates a conversation with *Sketches of Brazil* composer/arranger Robert Irving III. Additional panelists include Wallace Roney, Vince Wilburn Jr. (nephew of Miles Davis), Miles Evans (son of Gil Evans), Dede Sampaio and Felipe Fraga. Hear Miles and Gil memories from those who were there as well as reflections on the project by indigenous Brazilian musicians just hours before their world premiere performance in Millennium Park.

Thursday, August 20, 6:30 pm

Celebrating a Jazz Hero: Fred Anderson's 80th Birthday with the Great Black Music Ensemble



Prominent members of the [Great Black Music Ensemble](#) honor an important father of Chicago's creative music scene with original arrangements of Fred Anderson's compositions. At 80 years old, Anderson (pictured left) has been at the forefront of the saxophone community for over 30 years, acted as a mentor to several successful jazz artists, and has been credited with numerous achievements including helping to found the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM). The performance

features [George Lewis](#) (trombone) (pictured right); Francis Wong (saxophone, flute, erhu, Chinese violin); Ed Wilkerson (reeds); [Tomeka Reid](#) (bass); and [Greg Ward](#) (saxophone). Please note that Fred Anderson will not perform.

Special panel: On August 19, noon to 1:30 pm, the Chicago Cultural Center hosts a panel "Celebrating A Jazz Hero: A Symposium on the Role of Fred Anderson in Chicago's Jazz Legacy" in the Claudia Cassidy Theater. Admission is free and open to the public. Columbia University Professor, composer, trombonist and scholar George Lewis moderates a conversation with notable Chicago musicians who have studied with Fred Anderson, including bassist and scholar Paul Steinbeck, bassist and educator Tatsu Aoki, and others.

Thursday, August 27, 6:30 pm
Chicago Piano Showcase: Willie Pickens and Ron Perrillo



This display of dueling pianos reveals the full spectrum of the modern piano tradition. At one end, [Willie Pickens](#) (pictured left) strong hands show why they were an irresistible inspiration to one of the world's greatest drummers, Elvin Jones. In contrast to Pickens' emphatic style and complex melodies are the lighter, more modern tones adopted by [Ron Perrillo](#) (pictured right). His approach pulls from popular music and demonstrates the movement forward into a new era of jazz. The concert features Willie Pickens (piano); Ronald John Perrillo Jr. (composer, piano, sound-design); Kobie Watkins

(drums); Edwin Bayard (saxophones); Pat Mallinger (Native American Flute); Pharez Whitted (trumpet, flugelhorn); Tom Garling (trombone); and Dennis Carroll (contrabass, electric bass).

Thursday, September 3, 6:30 pm
Benny Goodman Celebration with Jon Faddis and Columbia College's Chicago Jazz



In a tribute that will have your toes tapping, [The Chicago Jazz Ensemble](#), under the direction of [Jon Faddis](#) (pictured), premieres a new piece composed and conducted by special guest Victor Goines honoring the man who put the swing in that thing—Chicago jazz legend Benny Goodman. To commemorate the centennial of Chicago's own "King of Swing," The Chicago Jazz Ensemble performs both classic and contemporary arrangements of Goodman's music. This evening's program features special guest NEA Jazz Master [Buddy DeFranco](#) – the "Father of BeBop Clarinet." Goines will also premiere his composition "Benny: Then, Now and Forever," commissioned by The ASCAP Foundation with support from The Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation.

Special panel: Earlier that day from noon to 1:30 pm, the Chicago Cultural Center hosts a panel "Benny Goodman: The First American Idol?" in the Claudia Cassidy Theater. Admission is free and open to the public. Jazz journalist John McDonough raises the question of whether or not

Goodman's role in popularizing jazz helped to create the superstar system in American music. Panelists include UIC Music Professor Emeritus Richard Wang and Goodman's long time friend Martin Segal. Members of the Goodman family will also be present.

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, 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 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 more than 16 million people, making it one of the most popular destinations in Chicago.

All photos are courtesy of the artists.

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