

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
NEWS RELEASE

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**MILLENNIUM PARK PRESENTS
MIDWEST YOUNG ARTISTS WELCOME HOME CONCERT**

Midwest Young Artists celebrate the completion of their 19-day international tour
with a performance in the Jay Pritzker Pavilion

Monday, August 13, 2007 6:30 PM

On Monday, August 13, 2007 Millennium Park will host Midwest Young Artists Symphony, Big Band and Chorus performing a "Welcome Home" concert to commemorate the end of their 19-day international tour to China and Korea. This free concert is the group's debut performance in Millennium Park.

"The Midwest Young Artists represent some of the best young musicians in the country. It is a pleasure to welcome them home from their international tour with this free concert in one of Chicago's most beautiful public spaces," said Millennium Park Executive Director Helen Doria.

The group will perform selections from their tour repertoire, which includes **Tchaikovsky's** stirring ***Symphony No. 5***, **Bernstein's** ***Candide Overture***, and **Copland's** ***Appalachian Spring***, along with renditions of popular jazz standards by **Ellington**, **Strayhorn**, and **Nestico**. The concert will also feature Midwest Young Artists Chorale performing selections from Chinese and Korean Folk Songs.

This concert marks the conclusion of the group's international tour which included performances in Beijing, Xi'an, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Shanghai, and Seoul; in such prestigious venues as the Zhong Shan Concert Hall in the Forbidden City, the People's Auditorium of Xi'an, and the Shanghai Concert Hall.

Midwest Young Artists were founded in 1993, with the desire to create an exceptional environment for young musicians. The organization caters to children grades 2-12 and has grown to include 5 youth orchestras, 3 vocal ensembles including two chorales and Chamber Singers, and over 60 chamber music ensembles including string, brass, wind & percussion ensembles.

A free open rehearsal for this concert will take place from 2pm to 5pm on the day of the performance.

For more information about free programs in Millennium Park, please visit www.millenniumpark.org or call 312-742-1168.

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