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MILLENNIUM PARK SUMMER 2009

Family Fun Festival Returns, Along with Jazz, International And Classical Concerts, Workouts, Tours and More

**New Series This Year Include “Downtown Sound: New Music Mondays,”
“Dusk Variations: A Chamber Series” and “Edible Audible Picnic”**

Chicagoans and visitors alike can spend a lively summer in one of the city’s most popular destinations—Millennium Park. Now in its fifth full season, Millennium Park will offer a mix of free concerts, family programming, tours and open rehearsals, along with new events taking place throughout the Park.

“Each year, Millennium Park presents hundreds of free events that showcase the very best of Chicago. This year—its fifth year—will be no exception,” said Lois Weisberg, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. “The Park continues to be an urban mecca, a joyful gathering spot place where people can come together to enjoy magnificent art, architecture and landscaping, and take in a diverse variety of free cultural programs.”

The Family Fun Festival, sponsored by Target, returns to Millennium Park from June 10 – September 4, full of hands-on activities, a performance stage, a reading circle and musical games for kids of all ages. Family Fun Festival special presentations this year include *SHELebration: A Tribute to Shel Silverstein* on July 13 and the raucously infectious musical mayhem of Robbert Bobbert and the Bubble Machine on August 31. Another highlight of the Family Fun Festival will be the interactive China Spectacle on July 19 that will wind its way throughout the Park, as it tells an ancient Chinese love story.

This summer, the acclaimed **Grant Park Music Festival** will return to the Park for its 75th season along with two other beloved concert series: **Music Without Borders** and **Made in Chicago: World Class Jazz**. On Mondays, visitors will find two new series at night—**Downtown Sound: New Music Mondays** and **Dusk Variations: A Chamber Series**. The eclectic series, **Edible Audible Picnic**, will round out the programming on Mondays at Noon.

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Two new exhibitions will be on view. Visitors can see “**A Conversation with Chicago: Contemporary Sculptures from China**” in the Boeing Galleries, along with the **Burnham Pavilions** on the Chase Promenade South, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the great Plan of Chicago.

Again this year, Chicagoans and visitors can start their weekends with Saturday morning **Workouts** on the Great Lawn and enjoy classes in yoga, pilates, tai chi and dance. Every Sunday, **Lurie Garden Guided Walks** are offered.

A complete schedule of programs is attached.

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 of 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 its opening in July 2004, Millennium Park has welcomed more than 16 million people, making it one of the most popular destinations in Chicago.

For more information about **Millennium Park**, call 312.742.1168 or visit www.millenniumpark.org.

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Note to Press: Photos available by contacting Amy O'Connor at amy.oconnor@cityofchicago.org