

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

NEWS RELEASE

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Photos, CDs, and interviews available upon request

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WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL: CHICAGO 2008

CITY OF CHICAGO CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LARGEST AND
LONGEST RUNNING FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL MUSIC IN THE US

SEPTEMBER 19-25, 2008



50+ press photos available in the “Media Room” at www.CityofChicago.org/WorldMusic

Chicago is gearing up to showcase the best of today’s international music at the 10th Annual World Music Festival: Chicago 2008, Friday, September 19 through Thursday, September 25, 2008. The city wide, multi-venue, one-week festival has attracted nearly **500,000 people** from Chicago and beyond since its inception in 1999. Organized by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), the Festival, which showcases both traditional and contemporary music from diverse cultures across the world, has presented more than **500 artists** and ensembles from more than **50 countries** in its 10-year run.

“When the Festival began, it was one of the only international music festivals in the country, “ said DCA Senior Program Director Michael Orlove. “Ten years later, we are still proud to continue our mission of providing accessible and affordable music programming to the City of Chicago through this exciting Festival.”

“World Music Festival has debuted so many international artists to Chicago audiences,” said DCA Program Coordinator Brian Keigher. “Groups like Gogol Bordello, Lila Downs, Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Yerba Buena, Rodrigo y Gabriela, Balkan Beat Box, Antibalas and more have not only played the Festival, but have returned to Chicago many times because there’s an audience for them here now.”

World Music Festival: Chicago 2008

The 2008 festival line-up features more than **70 events** at **21 venues**. Many events are family friendly and **38 events are admission free**. Events include 6 live radio broadcasts and a mix of free and ticketed concerts presented in museums, parks, cultural centers, plazas, theaters, clubs and other venues throughout Chicago.

The 2008 festival features more than **65 artists representing 39 countries** including Armenia, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, England, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Niger, Philippines, Russia, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, USA, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

New this year

- The Festival has added **4 new venues** to its roster this year, including the new Jazz Showcase (Printer's Row), Uncommon Ground (Rogers Park), House of Blues Backstage Porch (Downtown) and the World Music Center (Beverly).
- The festival will showcase **more than 30 Chicago debut performances**.
- As part of the "One World Under One Roof" closing night event at the Chicago Cultural Center (September 25, 6 – 11 pm), the Festival is debuting an **International Market Place**, featuring more than 30 arts, crafts and food vendors; artist demonstrations; a unique Mexican market village, plus special take-aways. See page 8 of the Schedule for full details.
- **Millennium Park** will host 2 free opening and closing night events at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, including Ensemble Al-Kindi with Sheikh Hamza Chakour, the Whirling Dervishes of Damascus and Richard Hagopian Ensemble - Kef Time Band on September 19, 6 pm and Calexico with Mariachi Luz de Luna, Salvador Duran, and Zazhil on September 25, 6 pm.

World Music Festival: Chicago 2008 is organized by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. Events are presented at the Chicago Cultural Center, in Millennium Park, and at various performance spaces around the city. See separate venue list for full details.

World Music Festival: Chicago 2008 is presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and is made possible with generous support from: Mexico Tourism Board and National Geographic TRAVELER; The Comer Science & Education Foundation; the National Endowment for the Arts; the Chicago Office of Tourism; and United, the Official Airline of the World Music Festival. Additional support is provided by 91.5 WBEZ Chicago Public Radio.

For more information, call the World Music Festival Hotline at 312.742.1938 or visit www.CityofChicago.org/WorldMusic. The public is welcome to post comments and photos at www.MySpace.com/ChicagoWorldMusic.

Note to press

All requests for seat reservations and photography for all Festival venues must be directed to Kennon Brown at the Department of Cultural Affairs. See contact info on page 1 of this release. General Festival media passes do not exist. Media must request individual passes to concerts. Each venue has its own photography policies and may require additional permission.

For full details on World Music Festival: Chicago 2008, please see the following attachments:

- Complete World Music Festival: Chicago 2008 Schedule, including list of Chicago debuts
- Artist Bios, Origins, Style of music, and Websites
- List of Festival Venues

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Photos (clockwise from top left): Alessandra Belloni; Alex Cuba; Bobby Friction; Chiwoniso (Photo by Roel Jorna); Youssef Dhafer; Vieux Farka Toure; Richard Hagopian; Mor Karbasi (Photo by Rob O'Connor); and Edmar Castaneda Jr.