

NEWS RELEASE

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MILLENNIUM PARK PRESENTS 2 NIGHTS OF FLAMENCO FEATURING SPAIN'S GUITAR SENSATION GERARDO NÚÑEZ, PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

FLAMENCO NIGHT (VENETIAN NIGHT): Saturday, July 28, 6:30 pm
MUSIC WITHOUT BORDERS: Sunday, July 29, 6:30 pm

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, Millennium Park presents two lively concerts featuring famed Spanish flamenco guitarist Gerardo Núñez. On Saturday, July 28 at 6:30 pm, the Grant Park Music Festival presents the sizzling "Flamenco on Venetian Night" concert featuring guitar sensation Gerardo Núñez with the Grant Park Orchestra under Guest Conductor Joana Carneiro, and showcasing traditional gypsy dancer Carmen Cortés. On Sunday, July 29 at 6:30 pm, the popular *Music Without Borders* series features the Gerardo Núñez Flamenco Ensemble performing with oud and violin virtuoso Simon Shaheen and master sitar player Nishat Khan.



Flamenco guitarist **Gerardo Núñez** began his apprenticeship with the great Rafael el Águila, and was only fourteen years old when he was accompanying such great flamenco singers as Tío Gregorio el Borrigo, Terremoto, Indio Gitano and many others. In his triple roles of composer, concert guitarist and accompanier, he has participated in some of the most diverse musical settings nationally and internationally. As a skilled guitarist he has experiences in jazz and many other genres and is a leader of integrating the "jondo" sound into other musical schemes, which has come to be known as fusion. He composes enormously rich and complex music, without losing the strength of the flamenco reference; and he performs with the technical capacity of a real virtuoso. Núñez has received the Flamenco Critics Award for Best Instrumental Album (*Cruce de Caminos*) and for Best Accompaniment (*Ramito de Locura*).

Núñez, who has collaborated with many artists in recordings and toured the world, including the United States, makes his Grant Park Music Festival debut on Saturday, July 28. The program includes five compositions by Núñez, himself, including *Templo del lucero*, *Solea*, *Sevilla*, *Bulerias*, and *Calima*, plus Falla's Suite No. 1 from *El sombrero de tres picos* ("The Three-Cornered Hat"), Rivero's *Andalusian Fire*, Bizet's Suite No. 1 from *Carmen*, and a traditional flamenco

Martinete. On Sunday, July 29, Núñez will perform with his own ensemble in addition to collaborating – for the first time ever – with Palestinian oud virtuoso Simon Shaheen and master sitar player Nishat Khan.

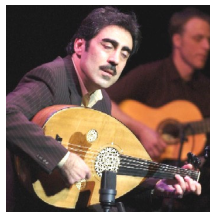
FEATURED ARTIST BIOS

FLAMENCO NIGHT (VENETIAN NIGHT): Saturday, July 28, 6:30 pm

A native of Lisbon, **Joana Carneiro** has attracted considerable attention as one of the outstanding young conductors working today. Currently an American Symphony Orchestra League Conducting Fellow, she serves as Assistant Conductor with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, working closely with Esa-Pekka Salonen. During the 2005-2006 Season, Carneiro began a position as Principal Guest Conductor of the Metropolitan Orchestra of Lisbon; in 2006-2007, she also became Official Guest Conductor of Lisbon's Gulbenkian Orchestra.

Carmen Cortés was born in Barcelona, where she began dancing flamenco. Today, Cortés directs her own dance company performing an interpretation of Garcia Lorcas's *Yerma* (with music by Gerardo Núñez) and Oscar Wilde's *Salomé*. She appears regularly in flamenco festivals from Japan to France, Germany and Belgium. Cortés was awarded the *Cabal al Baile* (*Perfecting the Dance*) in 1986, and now participates in the selection process for dancers for the National Ballet of Spain.

MUSIC WITHOUT BORDERS: Sunday, July 29, 6:30 pm



Simon Shaheen dazzles his listeners as he deftly leaps from traditional Arabic sounds to jazz and Western classical styles. His soaring technique, melodic ingenuity, and unparalleled grace have earned him international acclaim as a virtuoso on the oud and violin. Shaheen's work incorporates and reflects a legacy of Arabic music, and this unique contribution to the world of arts was recognized in 1994 when Shaheen was honored with the prestigious National Heritage Award at the White House. His concert credits are a veritable compendium of the world's greatest venues including Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Cairo's Opera House, Theatre de la Ville in Beirut, and Belgium's Le Palais des Arts.



Undeniably the foremost virtuoso of the sitar, **Nishat Khan** transcends all musical barriers with his provocative emotional expression and supreme technical mastery. Heir to the 400-year old tradition of India's most renowned musical family, Khan flawlessly integrates the discipline and technique of his ancestors with his own distinctive musical approach. Having performed since the tender age of 7, his extraordinary command of the instrument is unequalled. In modern contexts Nishat Khan's virtuosity has been compared to such luminaries as "Jimi Hendrix" (Chicago Sun-Times) and "Bach" (Washington Times) because of the ingenious, very personal interpretation of his musical heritage.

Membership Information and Ticket Prices

All Grant Park Music Festival performances are free to the public. Open lawn and pavilion seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Season memberships to the Festival are available, which include reserved seating or access to reserved sections for all concerts as well as invitations to special events. The new "8's Series" membership features access to the reserved seating section for 8 Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday concerts this season. Reserved group seating is also available for most concerts. Membership and group sales information is available by calling 312.742.7647 or by visiting the Festival's website at www.grantparkmusicfestival.com.

The *Music Without Borders* series performances are free to the public. Open lawn and pavilion seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

About Grant Park Music Festival

Acclaimed by critics and beloved by audiences, the Grant Park Music Festival is the nation's only free, municipally-supported, outdoor summer classical music series. The Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, located between Michigan and Columbus Avenues, at Washington Street, is the official home of the Grant Park Music Festival.

Founded by the Chicago Park District in 1935 and co-presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Grant Park Orchestral Association since 2001, the Grant Park Music Festival will present 31 concerts between June 13 and August 18, 2007, typically on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

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 walking distance to Millennium Park.

American Airlines is the Official Airline of the Festival's 2007 season and The Fairmont Chicago is the Festival's Official Hotel. 98.7 WFMT FM is the Official Classical Music Radio Station of the Festival.

For more information, please call the Grant Park Music Festival at 312.742.7638 or visit the Festival's website at www.grantparkmusicfestival.com. Concert information is subject to change.

About Music Without Borders

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, Millennium Park presents the second year of the popular international music series, *Music Without Borders*, featuring traditional folk and pop artists from around the globe. The series consists of six free concerts at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park. Due to the popularity of this series, the line-up has expanded to six concerts – twice as many concerts as the previous summer. *Music Without Borders* is part of the City of Chicago's ongoing celebration of world music. For more information, call 312.742.1168 or visit www.millenniumpark.org.

Music Without Borders is supported by a grant from the Governor's International Arts Exchange program of the Illinois Arts Council. WBEZ is the official media sponsor of *Music Without Borders*. United Airlines is the Official Airline for *Music Without Borders*. The Fairmont Chicago is the Official Hotel for *Music Without Borders*.

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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