

EMBARGO DATE: February 13, 2007

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**GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
DATES OF 2007 SUMMER SEASON;
OFFERS “SNEAK PEEK” AT SEASON HIGHLIGHTS**

Membership Renewal for 2006 Members Begins February 13

Chicago’s acclaimed Grant Park Music Festival will celebrate its 73rd annual season in its new home, the state-of-the-art Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park. The season will begin on Wednesday, June 13 and conclude on Saturday, August 18. Concerts will generally take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 6:30pm, and Saturday evenings at 7:30pm. Full date and program information will be announced in mid-March.

All Grant Park Music Festival performances are free to the public. The lawn and general seating area of the Pavilion are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Season memberships, which include reserved seating or access to reserved sections for all concerts, are available for renewal by 2006 members on February 13. Memberships will go on sale to the general public in mid-March. New this summer is the **8’s Series Membership**, featuring access to the reserved seating area for 8 concerts on Wednesday, Friday or Saturday evenings. Details on the Grant Park Music Festival membership program are available at www.grantparkmusicfestival.com.

Throughout the season, Principal Conductor Carlos Kalmar and Chorus Director Christopher Bell and a distinguished array of guest conductors will lead the Festival in an ambitious series of concerts designed to highlight the superb artistry of the GRAMMY®-nominated Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus as well as the Jay Pritzker Pavilion’s revolutionary acoustics.

Highlights of the season include:

- All four of Beethoven’s even-numbered Symphonies and Mahler’s Fifth Symphony
- Appearances by virtuosic pianists, including
 - **Marc-Andre Hamelin** opening the 2007 season with Brahms’ Piano Concerto No. 2
 - Festival favorite **Valentina Lisitsa** performing both of Shostakovich’s powerful piano concertos
 - Rising star pianist **Ingrid Fliter** playing Chopin
- A journey around the globe, featuring
 - Works by GRAMMY® and Oscar winning composer **Tan Dun** and music from Thailand
 - The gypsy rhythms of Hungarian fiddler **Roby Lakatos**
 - **Flamenco dancing** and guitar sounds, direct from Spain

- The combined forces of **The Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus** performing monumental works such as Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Duruflé's *Requiem*, Poulenc's *Gloria* and Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*
- The return of some of the Grant Park Music Festival's favorite vocalists **Jennifer Larmore, Karina Gauvin** and **Jonita Lattimore**
- Virtuoso violinist **Christian Tetzlaff** 's rendition of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto
- A celebration of Broadway and theatrical masterpieces by one of America's most legendary composers - **Leonard Bernstein**

For more information, please call the Grant Park Music Festival at (312)-742-7638 or visit the Festival's website at www.grantparkmusicfestival.com. This information is subject to change.

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Available to Press: Images by e-mail, interviews, video footage, recordings, and press passes