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**THE WHIRLING DERVISHES OF TURKEY  
AND VOCALIST AHMET OZHAN  
IN A FREE PERFORMANCE AT MILLENNIUM PARK**

\*\*Thursday, June 14 at 6:30pm \*\*

On the occasion of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the great humanist, mystic, poet and theologian **Rumi**, UNESCO has declared 2007 as the “Year of Rumi”. Well-known vocalist **Ahmet Ozhan**, a leading interpreter of Rumi’s songs, will make a rare appearance in the United States, performing with his 40-member music and dance ensemble, followed by an appearance by the **Whirling Dervishes of Turkey**.

The **free** performance takes place in Millennium Park’s Jay Pritzker Pavilion at 6:30pm on Thursday, June 14. The performance is presented in cooperation with the Consulate General of Turkey in Chicago and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey.

Mawlana Jalal ud-din Muhammed **Rumi** was born in Persia in 1207. A prolific writer, he produced major works of verse and prose which have transcended cultural and ethnic borders throughout the centuries. Rumi also founded the Mevlevi mystic order, commonly known as the “**Whirling Dervishes**” and created the Sema rite, a ritualistic sacred dance to symbolically seek the divine truth and maturity. Rumi’s message of love, peace and harmony among humanity continues to resonate with people around the world.

Since an early age, **Ahmet Ozhan** has been considered an exceptional singer and a leading representative of the Turkish classical Sufi music tradition. Today, he is a celebrity in his country and a well known leader of Sufi music concerts throughout Europe, the US and Middle East. In this concert, he appears with his 40-member music and dance ensemble.

For more information about the Whirling Dervishes and Ahmet Ozhan, please contact 312-742-1168 or visit [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org).

**About Millennium Park**

Located in downtown Chicago on Michigan Avenue between Randolph and Monroe Streets, the **24.5-acre Millennium Park** is an unprecedented center for world-class art, music, architecture and landscape design. Among the 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.

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