



**GRANT PARK
MUSIC FESTIVAL**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL'S
"FESTIVAL CONNECT" OFFERS MUSIC EDUCATION
AND ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES

*Performances by the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus
And Project Inclusion Vocal and String Quartets
bring a renewed focus to Chicago's neighborhoods*

CHICAGO (May 31, 2019) — The Grant Park Music Festival continues its commitment to *Festival Connect*, its comprehensive initiative aimed to increase music education and engagement opportunities for audiences of all ages. Working with the Chicago Park District's *Night Out in the Parks* program, *Festival Connect* will continue to focus on the neighborhoods with performances by the Grant Park Orchestra, the Grant Park Chorus, and *Project Inclusion Vocal and String Fellows*.

In Millennium Park, the *Festival Connect* suite of programs includes *Classical Campers*, a half-day music immersion program for children, along with its *Young Artists Showcase* series, an opportunity for students from local music schools and summer music programs to perform in front of the Great Lawn at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, prior to select Festival concerts. Additionally, patrons can learn more about the Festival's performances and guest artists through pre-concert lectures and open lunchtime rehearsals.

A complete listing of *Festival Connect* programs is below. For more information about the Grant Park Music Festival and *Festival Connect*, visit gpmf.org or call **312.742.7647**. For additional information, visit the Grant Park Music Festival Facebook page or follow the Festival on Twitter @gpmf.

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PROJECT INCLUSION

The Grant Park Music Festival continues its successful *Project Inclusion* professional development program, which guides young musicians from diverse backgrounds, traditionally underrepresented in the symphonic and choral field, towards careers in music. The program is a partnership with the Chicago Sinfonietta and includes two fellowship programs each summer:

Project Inclusion String Fellowship: Four musicians—Sergio Carleo (violin), Chelsea Sharpe (violin), Eva Mondragón (viola) and Chava Appiah (cello)—have been selected to spend their summer rehearsing and performing with Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Carlos Kalmar and the Grant Park Orchestra, and serving as teaching artists for the Festival's *Classical Campers* program.

Project Inclusion Vocal Fellowship: Three vocalists—Vidita Kanniks (soprano), Shaina Martinez (soprano), and Thereza Lituma (alto)—will spend the month of June rehearsing with Chorus Director Christopher Bell, Principal Conductor Carlos Kalmar, and members of the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus. They will also perform as part of the *Night Out in the Parks* initiative.

Night Out in the Parks

Discover the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus, along with our Project Inclusion fellows throughout the city all summer long.

Thursday, June 13, 7 PM, Jefferson Memorial Park, 4822 N. Long Avenue
Project Inclusion Vocal Trio

Thursday, June 20, 7 PM, Harrison Park, 1824 S. Wood Street
Project Inclusion String Quartet

Thursday, June 27, 7 PM, Indian Boundary Park, 2500 W. Lunt Street
Project Inclusion Vocal Trio

Tuesday, July 2, 7 PM, Washington Square Park, 901 N. Clark Street
Project Inclusion String Quartet

Monday, July 8, 7 PM, South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S. South Shore Drive
Grant Park Chamber Orchestra

Tuesday, July 9, 7 PM, Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Avenue
Project Inclusion String Quartet

Thursday, July 11, 7 PM, Columbus Park Refectory, 5701 W. Jackson Blvd.
Musicians of the Grant Park Orchestra

Monday, July 15, 7 PM, Chicago Women's Park, 1801 S. Indiana Avenue
Project Inclusion String Quartet

Thursday, July 18, 7 PM, Columbus Park Refectory, 5701 W. Jackson Blvd.
Grant Park Chorus

Monday, July 22, 7 PM, South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S. South Shore Drive
Grant Park Chorus

Thursday, July 25, 7 PM, Lake Shore Park, 808 N. Lake Shore Drive
Project Inclusion String Quartet

GRANT PARK ORCHESTRA

Festival concertmaster Jeremy Black will lead members of the Grant Park Orchestra in Copland's *Appalachian Spring* on Monday, July 8 at 7 p.m. at the South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S. South Shore Drive. The concert will be repeated on Thursday, July 11 at 7 p.m. the Columbus Park Refectory, 5701 W. Jackson Boulevard.

GRANT PARK CHORUS

Christopher Bell and the Grant Park Chorus return to two of the city's cultural hubs —the Columbus Park Refectory, 5701 W. Jackson Boulevard on Thursday, July 18 at 7 p.m. and the South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S. South Shore Drive, on Monday, July 22 at 7 p.m. — for an *a cappella* concert celebrating the legacy of music written by women, including a world premiere by American composer Lori Leitman.

CLASSICAL CAMPERS

The Festival hosts *Classical Campers*, its popular half-day music immersion program for children ages 6-12, in collaboration with the Chicago Park District. Throughout the season, over 1,800 students from more than 30 different Chicago neighborhoods will learn about the instruments and sections of the orchestra

with Festival educators and *Project Inclusion* fellows, take part in hands-on musical activities, and conclude their day with a visit to a Festival rehearsal and talk-back with Grant Park Orchestra members. *Classical Campers* often provides children with their first exposure to a live classical music performance.

YOUNG ARTISTS SHOWCASE

On Fridays at 5:30 p.m. before the Grant Park Orchestra takes the stage, audiences are treated to concerts by students from local music schools and summer music programs at the front of the Great Lawn at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion. In June, the Festival's *Young Artists Showcase* program will include performances by Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras' Steel Orchestra (June 14), a Chicago Suzuki Violin Playdown as part of *Make Music Chicago* (June 21) and After School Matters (June 28).

PRE-CONCERT LECTURES

The Festival continues to provide educational experiences for people of all ages that encourage the audience to learn more about the music. Its popular free *Pre-Concert Lecture* series returns with exclusive conversations between guest artists and expert music commentators including WFMT's *Relevant Tones* host **Seth Boustead**, CSO's *Sounds and Stories* contributor **Laura Sauer** and Conductor and Organist **Stephen Alltop**. Lectures take place in Millennium Park's Chase Promenade North tent, on the walkway to the west of the Pavilion, one hour before each concert. On June 29, the pre-concert lecture will take place in the Harris Theater 2nd floor Donor Lounge.

June guests for the pre-concert lectures include: Chicago native violinist **Benjamin Beilman** (June 12); composer **Kareem Roustom** (June 14 and 15); pianist **Inon Barnatan** (June 19); vocalists **Maeve Höglund** and **Michael Sumuel** (June 28) and vocalists **Siena Licht Miller** and **John Matthew Myers** (June 29). On Wednesday, June 26, a special pre-concert event will take place. Instead of a traditional lecture, dance instructors from Arthur Murray Dance Studio will lead waltz and polka lessons, preceding the concert *A Night in Vienna*.

OPEN LUNCHTIME REHEARSALS

Open lunchtime rehearsals of the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus return June 11 – August 16 and typically take place Tuesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Audiences are welcome to sit in the Pavilion Seating Bowl during rehearsals, and Festival docents will be on site to talk about the week's concerts during rehearsal breaks.

For more than 80 years, the Grant Park Music Festival has been Chicago's summer musical sensation, demonstrating that classical music, performed by a world-class orchestra and chorus can have a transformative impact on the city. Showcased in the city's most spectacular setting, the Festival continues to be the summer gathering place for all of Chicago. The Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park is the official home of the Grant Park Music Festival, with free seats available for every concert.

For information about the Grant Park Music Festival, **visit gpmf.org** or call **312.742.7647**. For additional information, visit the Grant Park Music Festival Facebook page or follow the Festival on Twitter [@gpmf](https://twitter.com/gpmf).

The Festival is led by Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Carlos Kalmar, along with Grant Park Chorus Director Christopher Bell, Grant Park Orchestral Association President and CEO Paul Winberg, and Board Chair Stephen Smith.

The Grant Park Music Festival is presented by the Grant Park Orchestral Association with key support from the Chicago Park District and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. The Festival gratefully acknowledges the generous support from its 2019 sponsors: AbelsonTaylor, American Accents Series Sponsor; BMO Harris Bank, Festival HD Series Sponsor; William Blair, Classic Series Sponsor; Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park, Official Hotel; Macy's, Official Picnic Sponsor; CIBC USA, Concert Sponsor; and ComEd, Concert Sponsor; with additional support from Paul M. Angell Family Foundation, Walter E. Heller Foundation, Julius N. Frankel Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Sage Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

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The Grant Park Music Festival is a key partner in the Chicago Park District's *Night Out in the Parks* program. *Night Out in the Parks* is an initiative featuring more than 2,000 cultural activities annually in Chicago Park District locations citywide in support of the City of Chicago's Cultural Plan.

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