



For Immediate Release

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**CHICAGO'S GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
**ANNOUNCES THE 2017 SEASON**  
**JUNE 14—AUGUST 19 IN MILLENNIUM PARK**

*Thirty spectacular concerts at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, including a world premiere commission by the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Aaron Jay Kernis***

*Other highlights include **Beethoven's Symphony No. 9**; **Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto**; **Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1**; **Strauss' Symphonia domestica** led by **Simone Young** in her Festival debut and the Festival premiere of Roberto Sierra's monumental choral work **Missa Latina***

*Rounding out the season is **Star Wars and More: The Music of John Williams**; **Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration** with the acclaimed **Canadian Brass**; along with the sounds of Broadway, Mariachi, classical guitar and more*

*The Festival renews its commitment to music education and engagement, expanding its successful Project Inclusion professional development program to include vocalists along with orchestral fellows*

CHICAGO (January 4, 2017) — Chicago's Grant Park Music Festival Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Carlos Kalmar today announced a rich array of programming for the Festival's 2017 season, including a world premiere commission by the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, Aaron Jay Kernis. Kalmar will lead the Grant Park Orchestra, along with Chorus Director Christopher Bell and the Grant Park Chorus, in a ten-week season, taking place from **June 14—August 19** at Millennium Park's Jay Pritzker Pavilion and other venues throughout the city.

All concerts are free and most will take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (a complete schedule follows and can be found at **[gpmf.org](http://gpmf.org)**).

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. BMO Harris Bank is proud to be the season sponsor of the Festival for the fourth year.

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## SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

- The world premiere by the Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer **Aaron Jay Kernis** of a new horn concerto written for Grant Park Orchestra Principal Horn, Jonathan Boen (co-commissioned by the Grant Park Music Festival and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic). In conjunction with the premiere, Mr. Kernis will hold a composer residency in Chicago, with artistic development activities for young artists, and educational programs for the general public. (August 11 and 12; Carlos Kalmar conducts).
- Masterworks including *Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto* with guest artist **Vadim Gluzman**; Ralph Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony*; Aram Khachaturian's Piano Concerto; Stravinsky's complete ballet score from *The Firebird*; Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1 with pianist **Stephen Hough**; Strauss' powerful *Symphonia domestica*, led by guest conductor **Simone Young** in her Festival debut; Haydn's Symphony No. 104; Tchaikovsky's *Manfred*; Brahms' *Schicksalslied*; and *Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Choral*.
- The **Canadian Brass** join the Orchestra in celebration of Canada's sesquicentennial for an evening of symphonic suites, blues and the Beatles, all with a Canadian flair. (July 1; Lucas Waldin conducts).
- The Festival premiere of *Missa Latina* (2006), a monumental choral work by Puerto Rican-American composer Roberto Sierra that mixes traditional Latin and contemporary classical, with the jazz dance rhythms of the Caribbean. (June 28 and 30; Miguel Harth-Bedoya conducts).
- The Midwest premieres of Kareem Roustom's *Ramal*, Frank Martin's 1944 oratorio *In terra pax*, David Schiff's 2006 orchestral work *Infernal*, and the U.S. premiere of Matthew Hindson's *Headbanger*.
- The Festival debuts of internationally acclaimed classical guitarist **Pablo Sáinz Villegas**, performing Joaquín Rodrigo's concerto *Fantasia para un gentilhombre* (1996); soprano **Susanna Phillips** in Copland's *Eight Poems of Emily Dickinson*, oboist **François Leleux** in Richard Strauss' Oboe Concerto, rising Dutch cellist **Harriet Krijgh** in Haydn's Cello Concerto in C Major; and pianist **Conrad Tao**. The season will also feature the debuts of guest conductors **Fawzi Haimor**, **Brett Mitchell**, **Ted Sperling**, **Lucas Waldin** and **Simone Young**.
- Return engagements by violinist **Vadim Gluzman** opening the season with *Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto*; piano virtuoso **Stephen Hough** performing Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1; **Mariachi Cobre**, one of America's best-known mariachi bands; conductors **Miguel Harth-Bedoya** conducting Roberto Sierra's *Missa Latina* and **Thomas Wilkins** at the podium for *Star Wars and More: The Music of John Williams*.
- Renowned vocalists to include **Russell Braun**, bass; **Janai Brugger**, soprano; **Colleen Daly**, soprano; **Sara Jakubiak**, soprano; **Allyson McHardy**, mezzo-soprano; **Daniel Okulitch**, bass; **Susanna Phillips**, soprano; **David John Pike**, baritone; **David Pomeroy**, tenor; **Jessica Rivera**, soprano; **Lauren Segal**, mezzo-soprano; **Brendan Tuohy**, tenor; **James Westman**, baritone; along with Broadway stars **Laura Osnes** and **Santino Fontana**.

## **FESTIVAL CONNECT: MUSIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE**

The Grant Park Music Festival expands 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 and Mayor Emanuel'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, *Project Inclusion* and the *Apprentice Chorale*.

- **PROJECT INCLUSION:** In 2017, the Festival expands its successful *Project Inclusion* professional development program, which guides young musicians from diverse backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in the symphonic and symphonic choral field towards successful careers in music, with a goal of increasing diversity among orchestral ensembles. *Project Inclusion* is a partnership with the Chicago Sinfonietta.
  - New this year, the Festival will select four classical vocalists through a nation-wide audition to experience life as a professional choral musician. The *Project Inclusion Vocal Fellows* will work with Chorus Director Christopher Bell, rehearse and perform with the Grant Park Chorus, receive mentoring from artistic leadership, guest artists and Chorus members, and perform with the *Project Inclusion* String Fellows in *Night Out in the Parks* programs.
  - The *Project Inclusion Orchestra Fellows* program continues with four string players who, after a rigorous audition process, will rehearse and perform with the Grant Park Orchestra, perform as a chamber ensemble, receive mentoring from Carlos Kalmar and other members of the orchestra, and serve as teaching artists for the Festival's *Classical Campers* program.
- **APPRENTICE CHORALE:** The Festival's *Apprentice Chorale*, led by Christopher Bell, provides advanced training and performance opportunities for pre-professional vocal students, offering them the opportunity to perform alongside the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus at the Pritzker Pavilion, and at locations throughout the city with the *Project Inclusion* ensemble. The *Apprentice Chorale* is a collaboration with DePaul University, the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University and the University of Illinois at Chicago.
- **GRANT PARK ORCHESTRA AND GRANT PARK CHORUS:** Christopher Bell and the Grant Park Orchestra reprise their Independence Day Salute at the South Shore Cultural Center (July 5, 6:30 p.m.). Bell and the Grant Park Chorus bring Rachmaninov's powerful and moving *Vespers* to the South Shore Cultural Center (July 13, 7 p.m.) and the Columbus Park Refectory (July 18, 7 p.m.). All are a part of Mayor Emanuel's *Night Out in the Parks* program.
- **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 2,000 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 talkback with Grant Park Orchestra members. *Classical Campers* often provides children with their first exposure to a live classical music performance.
- **PRE-CONCERT LECTURES:** The Festival's popular pre-concert lectures series returns with guest lecturers sharing insights about the evening's program. Lectures take place in Millennium Park's Family Fun Tent, on the walkway to the west of the Pavilion, one hour before each concert.
- **YOUNG ARTISTS SHOWCASE:** Every Friday 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.

- **OPEN LUNCHTIME REHEARSALS:** Orchestra and chorus rehearsals take place June 13—August 18, Tuesdays through Fridays typically between 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Audiences are welcome to sit in the Pavilion Seating Bowl during rehearsals and Festival docents will talk about the week's concerts during rehearsal breaks.
- **BROADCAST:** Several of this summer's concerts will be broadcast on 98.7WFMT, Chicago's classical and fine arts radio station, and also online at [wfmt.com/streaming](http://wfmt.com/streaming).

### **MEMBERSHIP AND GROUP SEATING INFORMATION**

Memberships to the Grant Park Music Festival 2017 season are available beginning January 5 and include reserved access for every Festival concert, along with exclusive benefits like access to concert receptions and discounts on parking and restaurants. The Festival also offers packages with nine and 13 concerts that include reserved seats with complimentary exchange privileges, as well as Choose Your Own four, eight or 12 concert series packages. Memberships begin at \$96.

In addition, every Grant Park Music Festival concert has seats that are free and open to the public. Seats in the Seating Bowl and on the Great Lawn are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Priority access to reserved seats in the Pavilion is available for groups of ten or more. Exclusive seating on the stage of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in the Choral Balcony is available for groups of 50 or more. Group seating begins at \$15 per person.

For information about memberships and groups or to learn more about the Grant Park Music Festival, **visit [gpmf.org](http://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**.

### **GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Acclaimed by critics and beloved by audiences, the Grant Park Music Festival is the nation's only summer-long outdoor classical music series of its kind, with free seats available for every concert. 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.

The Grant Park Music 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 Steve Smith.

The Grant Park Music Festival gratefully acknowledges the generous support from its 2017 sponsors: BMO Harris Bank, Season Sponsor; Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park, Official Hotel; AbelsonTaylor, Presenting Sponsor of American Accents; and ComEd, Concert Sponsor; with additional support from the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation and Walter E. Heller Foundation.

The Grant Park Music Festival is a key partner in Mayor Rahm Emanuel'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.

### **CARLOS KALMAR**

Carlos Kalmar has been Principal Conductor of the Grant Park Music Festival since 2000, and in 2011 was named Artistic Director and Principal Conductor. Under Kalmar's leadership, the Festival has become one of the world's preeminent classical music festivals, and he has played a central role in shaping its artistic vision.

In addition to his role at the Grant Park Music Festival, Carlos Kalmar is the Music Director of the Oregon Symphony, a position he has held since 2003. He was the Principal Conductor of the Orquesta Sinfónica de Radio Televisión Española in Madrid and has served in artistic leadership roles for the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, the Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra, the Opera House and Philharmonic Orchestra in Dessau, Germany and the Tonkünstler Orchestra in Vienna, while also traveling the world as a guest conductor appearing with some of the world's most important orchestras. Kalmar has made six recordings with the Grant Park Orchestra.

### **CHRISTOPHER BELL**

Christopher Bell has served as Chorus Director of the Grant Park Chorus since 2001, and led the Chorus through its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012 with a series of special events, including the release of its first ever *cappella* recording entitled *Songs of Smaller Creatures and other American Choral Works*, available on Cedille Records.

In addition to working with the Grant Park Music Festival, Bell is the Chorus Master of the Edinburgh Festival Chorus, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra Junior Chorus, and the Belfast Philharmonic Choir. Largely responsible for the formation of the National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCoS) in 1996, he has been its Artistic Director ever since. In 2012, Bell was awarded an honorary Doctor of Music degree from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow for his contributions to music in Scotland. He is the recipient of the 2013 Michael Korn Founders Award given by Chorus America, established in 1978 to honor an individual with a lifetime of significant contributions to the professional choral art. In 2015, Bell was awarded an honorary Doctor of Music degree from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland.

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## **2017 SEASON REPERTOIRE**

*all programs subject to change*

### **OPENING NIGHT**

#### **TCHAIKOVSKY VIOLIN CONCERTO**

Wednesday, June 14 at 6:30 PM

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, conductor; Vadim Gluzman, violin

Alfvén: *Festival Overture*

Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto

Gershwin: *Porgy and Bess: A Symphonic Picture*

### **A SEA SYMPHONY**

Friday, June 16 at 6:30 PM

Saturday, June 17 at 7:30 PM

Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus; Carlos Kalmar, conductor; Christopher Bell, chorus director; Sara Jakubiak, soprano; David John Pike, baritone

Britten: *Peter Grimes: Four Sea Interludes and Passacaglia*

Vaughan Williams: *A Sea Symphony*

### **BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY NO. 4**

Wednesday, June 21 at 6:30 PM

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, conductor; Susanna Phillips, soprano

Wagner: *A Faust Overture*

Copland: *Eight Poems of Emily Dickinson*

Beethoven: Symphony No. 4

### **STRAVINSKY FIREBIRD**

Friday, June 23 at 6:30 PM

Saturday, June 24 at 7:30 PM

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, conductor; Conrad Tao, piano

Schiff: *Infernal*

Khachaturian: Piano Concerto

Stravinsky: *The Firebird*

### **MISSA LATINA**

Wednesday, June 28 at 6:30 PM

Friday, June 30 at 6:30 PM

Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus; Miguel Harth-Bedoya, guest conductor; Christopher Bell, chorus director; Jessica Rivera, soprano

Sierra: *Missa Latina*

### **CANADA'S 150<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION WITH THE CANADIAN BRASS**

Saturday, July 1 at 7:30 PM

Lucas Waldin, guest conductor

Grant Park Orchestra; Canadian Brass, soloists

The Canadian Brass join the Grant Park Orchestra for an evening of symphonic suites, blues and the Beatles, all with a Canadian flair, in honor of Canada's sesquicentennial.

### **INDEPENDENCE DAY SALUTE**

Tuesday, July 4 at 6:30 PM

Grant Park Orchestra; Christopher Bell, conductor

An evening of patriotic favorites, including *Stars and Stripes Forever*, the 1812 Overture and more

**NOTE:** concert repeats Wednesday, July 5 at 6:30 PM at the South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S. South Shore Drive

## **STAR WARS AND MORE: THE MUSIC OF JOHN WILLIAMS** **NOTE TIME**

Friday, July 7 at 8:00 PM

Saturday, July 8 at 8:00 PM

Grant Park Orchestra; Thomas Wilkins, guest conductor

The music from your favorite films is brought to life in an epic evening featuring classics from Academy Award-winner John Williams. Enjoy the orchestral soundtrack from *Star Wars*, *Superman*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and more.

## **HAYDN LONDON SYMPHONY**

Wednesday, July 12 at 6:30 PM

Grant Park Orchestra; Fawzi Haimor, guest conductor

Roustorm: *Ramal*

Haydn: Symphony No. 104, *London*

Hindemith: *Symphonic Metamorphosis of Themes by Carl Maria von Weber*

## **GRANT PARK CHORUS: RACHMANINOV VESPERS** **NOTE DATE, TIME AND LOCATIONS**

Thursday, July 13 at 7 PM

Location: South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S. South Shore Drive

Tuesday, July 18 at 7 PM

Location: Columbus Park Refectory, 5701 W. Jackson Boulevard

Grant Park Chorus; Christopher Bell, chorus director

Rachmaninov: All Night Vigil, Op. 37, *Vespers*

## **BEETHOVEN PIANO CONCERTO NO. 2**

Friday, July 14 at 6:30 PM

Saturday, July 15 at 7:30 PM

Grant Park Orchestra; Simone Young, guest conductor; Andrew Tyson, piano

Hindson: *Headbanger*

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 2

Strauss: *Symphonia domestica*

## **SAINT-SAËNS VIOLIN CONCERTO**

Wednesday, July 19 at 6:30 PM

Grant Park Orchestra; Brett Mitchell, guest conductor; Angelo Xiang Yu, violin

Bunch: *Supermaximum*

Saint-Saëns: Violin Concerto No. 3

Copland: *The Red Pony*

## **A BROADWAY ROMANCE**

Friday, July 21 at 6:30 PM

Saturday, July 22 at 7:30 PM

Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus; Ted Sperling, guest conductor; Christopher Bell, chorus director; Laura Osnes and Santino Fontana, vocalists

The ups and downs of romance with music from classic and contemporary shows including *West Side Story*, *Carousel*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Promises Promises*, *Follies* and more

## **BRAHMS PIANO CONCERTO NO. 1**

Wednesday, July 26 at 6:30 PM

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, conductor; Stephen Hough, piano

Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1

Kodály: *Dances of Galánta*

Brahms: *Hungarian Dances* Nos. 1, 3, 6

## **MOZART LINZ SYMPHONY**

Friday, July 28 at 6:30 PM

Saturday, July 29 at 7:30PM

Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus; Carlos Kalmar, conductor; Christopher Bell, chorus director; Colleen Daly, soprano; Lauren Segal, mezzo-soprano; David Pomeroy, tenor; James Westman, baritone; Daniel Okulitch, bass

Mozart: Symphony No. 36, *Linz*

Martin: *In terra pax*

### **THE SPANISH GUITAR**

Wednesday, August 2 at 6:30 PM

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, conductor; Pablo Sáinz Villegas, guitar

Arriaga: *Los esclavos felices*: Overture

Bizet: Suite from *Carmen*

Rodrigo: *Fantasia para un gentilhombre*

Turina: *Danzas fantásticas*

### **DEBUSSY LA MER** **NOTE LOCATION**

Friday, August 4 at 6:30 PM

Saturday, August 5 at 7:30 PM

Location: Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph Street

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, conductor; François Leleux, oboe

Hindemith: Concert Music for Strings and Brass

Strauss: Oboe Concerto in D Major

Mendelssohn: *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage*

Debussy: *La mer*

### **AN EVENING WITH MARIACHI COBRE**

Wednesday, August 9 at 6:30 PM

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, conductor

Mariachi Cobre, one of America's best-known mariachi bands, joins the Orchestra for an evening of traditional Mexican folk music and an appeal that transcends ethnic groups and national borders.

### **TCHAIKOVSKY MANFRED SYMPHONY + A WORLD PREMIERE**

Friday, August 11 at 6:30 PM

Saturday, August 12 at 7:30 PM

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, conductor; Jonathan Boen, horn

Rimsky-Korsakov: Overture: *The Tsar's Bride*

Kernis: Horn Concerto (World Premiere)

Tchaikovsky: Manfred Symphony

### **HAYDN CELLO CONCERTO**

Wednesday, August 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Grant Park Orchestra; Carlos Kalmar, conductor; Harriet Krijgh, cello

Respighi: *The Birds*

Haydn: Cello Concerto in C Major

Chadwick: *Symphonic Sketches*

### **BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY NO. 9**

Friday, August 18 at 6:30 PM

Saturday, August 19 at 7:30 PM

Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus; Carlos Kalmar, conductor; Christopher Bell, chorus director; Janai Brugger, soprano; Allyson McHardy, mezzo-soprano; Brendan Tuohy, tenor; Russell Braun, bass

Brahms: *Schicksalslied*

Beethoven: Symphony No. 9



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