



**GRANT PARK
MUSIC FESTIVAL**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jill Hurwitz, 312.744.9179
jill.hurwitz@gpmf.org

**AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS AT
THE GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL**

*A world premiere by Aaron Jay Kernis,
an evening of mariachi, a night of Spanish guitar and
Beethoven's Ninth Symphony on closing weekend of the 2017 season*

CHICAGO (July 19, 2017) — Summer in Chicago wraps up in August with the final weeks of the 83rd season of the **Grant Park Music Festival**, led by Artistic Director and Principal Conductor **Carlos Kalmar** with Chorus Director **Christopher Bell** and the award-winning **Grant Park Orchestra** and **Chorus** at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park.

Highlights of the season include **Legacy**, a world premiere commission by the Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer, **Aaron Jay Kernis** on August 11 and 12, and **Beethoven's Symphony No. 9** with the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus and acclaimed guest soloists on closing weekend, August 18 and 19.

All concerts take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (Concerts on August 4 and 5 move indoors to the Harris Theater during Lollapalooza). The August program schedule is below and available at www.gpmf.org.

Patrons can order One Night Membership Passes for reserved seats, starting at \$25, by calling **312.742.7647** or going online at gpmf.org and selecting their own seat down front in the member section of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion. Membership support helps to keep the Grant Park Music Festival free for all. For every Festival concert, there are seats that are free and open to the public in Millennium Park's Seating Bowl and on the Great Lawn, available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The month begins with **Carlos Kalmar** leading the Grant Park Orchestra in a tribute to the music of Spain with internationally-renowned guitar virtuoso **Pablo Sáinz Villegas** making his Festival debut (August 2). On Friday and Saturday, the Grant Park Orchestra heads indoors to the Harris Theater for a program that includes **Debussy's La Mer** and **Strauss' Oboe Concerto in D Major** with guest artist **François Leleux** (August 4 and 5). **Mariachi Cobre**, one of America's best-known mariachi bands joins the Grant Park Orchestra (August 9), then the week wraps up with **Tchaikovsky's Manfred Symphony** and the world premiere of **Aaron Jay Kernis'** horn concerto, **Legacy**, written for the Festival's principal horn, **Jonathan Boen** (August 11 and 12).

The last week of the 2017 season begins with rising Dutch cellist **Harriet Krijgh** making her Festival debut, performing **Haydn's Cello Concerto** (August 16). Then the season comes to a close with the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus and soloists **Janai Brugger** (soprano), **Allyson McHardy** (mezzo-soprano), **Brendan Tuohy** (tenor) and **Russell Braun** (bass) performing one of the best known works in classical music, **Beethoven's Symphony No. 9** with its powerful *Ode to Joy* (August 18 and 19).

WFMT's *Relevant Tones* host **Seth Boustead**, CSO's *Sounds and Stories* contributor **Laura Sauer**, WFMT on air host **Dennis Moore**, host free pre-concert lectures one hour before the concert in Millennium Park's Family Fun Tent located just west of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion. Special guests at these lectures include guitarist **Pablo Sáinz Villegas** (August 2), oboist **François Leleux** (August 4 and 5 in the Harris Theater 2nd floor donor lounge), members of **Mariachi Cobre** (August 9), composer **Aaron Jay Kernis** (August 11 and 12), cellist **Harriet Krijgh** (August 16) and mezzo-soprano **Allyson McHardy** (August 18 and 19).

Open lunchtime rehearsals of the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus continue through August 19 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. (No open rehearsals August 4 and 5). A special Brown Bag Lunch talkback with composer Aaron Jay Kernis will take place on Thursday, August 10 at approximately 12 Noon.

The Festival's annual free picnic takes place on Saturday, August 12. This year's theme is *A Pastoral Picnic in White*, where everyone is invited to dress in white from head to toe, bring a white tablecloth and find a place on the Great Lawn to raise a glass before an evening of Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov and a world premiere by Aaron Jay Kernis.

Eleven of this summer's concerts, including August 2, 16 and 18 at 6:30 p.m., will be broadcast on 98.7WFMT, Chicago's classical and fine arts radio station, and also online at wfmt.com/streaming.

For more information about the Grant Park Music Festival including membership, One Night Passes and group seating, 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.

Grant Park Music Festival

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.

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.

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.

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

Carlos Kalmar

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

artistic vision. In addition to his role at the Grant Park Music Festival, Carlos Kalmar begins his fourteenth season as Music Director of the Oregon Symphony this fall. He previously served as Music Director of the Orquesta Sinfónica de Radio Televisión Española in Madrid, 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.

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GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL **AUGUST SCHEDULE**

all programs subject to change

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: *Legacy*

This world premiere by Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer Aaron Jay Kernis was written for Grant Park Orchestra principal horn, Jonathan Boen (co-commissioned by the Grant Park Music Festival and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic).

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; Benjamin Rivera, guest 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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