



**GRANT PARK
MUSIC FESTIVAL**

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**GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL CELEBRATES
AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY WITH AN
INDEPENDENCE DAY SALUTE
THURSDAY, JULY 4 AT 6:30 PM IN MILLENNIUM PARK**

Christopher Bell conducts the Grant Park Orchestra

CHICAGO (June 6, 2019) — Celebrate the Fourth with the **Grant Park Music Festival's** annual ***Independence Day Salute***, one of Millennium Park's most popular concerts of the summer season. **Christopher Bell** conducts the Grant Park Orchestra in this holiday tradition, full of rousing marches and patriotic anthems, including Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever* and the *Armed Forces Salute*. This year, the Festival will also feature Grant Park Orchestra principal flute Mary Stolper and Grant Park Chorus baritone John Orduña.

The *Independence Day Salute* takes place Thursday, July 4, 6:30 p.m. at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park.

Patrons can order One Night Member Passes for reserved seats, starting at \$26, by calling **312.742.7647** or going online to gpmf.org and selecting their own seat down front in the member section of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion. Membership support helps to keep the Festival free for all. For every Grant Park Music 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.

An open rehearsal of the *Independence Day Salute* will take place Wednesday, July 3, at 10:30 a.m. in Millennium Park. Audiences are welcome to sit in the Pavilion Seating Bowl during rehearsal, and Festival docents will be on site to talk about the program during rehearsal breaks.

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The City of Chicago has implemented a security perimeter and bag check policy for all concerts and events that take place at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion. For most Grant Park Music Festival concerts, security entails a bag check screening for weapons and other Millennium Park prohibited items. However, for the *Independence Day Salute* on July 4, patrons will not be able to bring alcohol into the Park. Beer and wine will be available for purchase at concession tents inside the Park. For the *Independence Day Salute*, entrances and bag check lines will open at 3:30 p.m. For a complete list of prohibited items, visit gpmf.org/prohibited-items.

The July 4 concert will be broadcast live on 98.7WFMT, Chicago's classical and fine arts radio station, and also online at wfmt.com/streaming.

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 2019 season begins on June 12 and runs through August 17.

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. The *Independence Day Salute* concert is sponsored by Ginger and Jim Meyer, AbelsonTaylor, and BMO Harris Bank.

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.

NOTE: There are NO fireworks on Independence Day in Millennium Park. Navy Pier's *Fourth of July Fireworks Presented by Miller Lite* will take place on July 4 at 9:30 p.m.

CHRISTOPHER BELL

Christopher Bell has served as Chorus Director of the Grant Park Chorus since 2002, and led the Chorus through its 50th anniversary with a series of special events, including the release of its first ever a cappella recording. During his tenure, Bell and the chorus have been recipients of the coveted Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence given by Chorus America, as well as glowing reviews from both critics and audiences alike. In 2013, Bell won the Michael Korn Founders Award for Development of the Professional Choral Art.

In addition to his work with the Festival, Christopher Bell is the Artistic Director of The Washington Chorus. Largely responsible for the formation of the National Youth Choir of Scotland in 1996, he has been its Artistic Director ever since. Bell was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Music from the Royal Conservatoire in Scotland in 2012, in recognition of his contribution to performing arts in Scotland. In 2015, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Music from the University of Aberdeen.

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