

**For Immediate Release: August 10, 2017**

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**THE CHICAGO JAZZ FESTIVAL WILL BE HEARD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CHINA,  
THE UNITED KINGDOM, AUSTRIA AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES  
THROUGH THE WFMT RADIO NETWORK**

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) is pleased to announce that the **Chicago Jazz Festival** will be heard for the first time in **China**, the **United Kingdom**, **Austria** and other European countries, as well as across the United States through the WFMT Radio Network and a partnership with Choose Chicago. A favorite Labor Day weekend tradition, the free admission Chicago Jazz Festival is **August 31–September 3**, at **Millennium Park** and the **Chicago Cultural Center** (78 E. Washington St.) showcasing live performances by Chicago artists alongside some of the greatest names from around the world on multiple stages. The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Jazz Festival is produced by DCASE and programmed by the Jazz Institute of Chicago (JIC).

“The world comes to Chicago each year to celebrate this city’s rich music legacy at events like the Chicago Jazz Festival,” said Mark Kelly, DCASE Commissioner. “Through our partnership with the WFMT Radio Network and Choose Chicago, we intend to expand the worldwide audience for the Jazz Festival and for Chicago as a music capital and a global cultural destination.”

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2017, radio partner **90.9FM WDCB** will present live broadcasts of various sets from the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, including the **George Freeman 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration** on Thursday, August 31; the **Dr. Lonnie Smith Trio** on Friday, September 1; and **Ellabration! 100 Years of Ella Fitzgerald** featuring the **Brad Williams Trio**, **Sheila Jordan**, **Dee Alexander**, **Frieda Lee**, **Spider Saloff** and **Paul Marinaro** on Saturday, September 2. The local broadcasts will be co-hosted by WDCB host **Dan Bindert** and WFMT Radio Network announcers, including : jazz vocalist **Dee Alexander**, WFMT host **Dave Schwan** and Grammy® Award-winning jazz writer and former WBEZ host **Neil Tesser**. This will be the first time since 2001 that sets at the festival have been broadcast live to radio audiences in Chicago

WFMT Radio Network and its nationally-syndicated *Jazz Network*, in partnership with DCASE and Choose Chicago, will showcase select recordings of the Chicago Jazz Festival to a broader national audience, across more than 60 stations around the country in 2018. Selected recordings will also air internationally in China, the United Kingdom, Austria and other countries through the European Broadcasting Union, extending the reach of the festival to hundreds of thousands of listeners worldwide.

The free-admission Chicago Jazz Festival starts Thursday, August 31, noon–4:30 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center and 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. in Millennium Park. On Friday, September 1, through Sunday, September 3, the festival takes place in Millennium Park, 11 a.m.–9:30 p.m. For the complete lineup, visit [chicagojazzfestival.us](http://chicagojazzfestival.us)

The Chicago Jazz Festival is sponsored in part by American Airlines, Chicago Jazz Magazine, Chicago Transit Authority, Chicago Tribune, CLTV-ChicagoLand Television, Communications Direct, Downbeat Magazine, Stella Artois, Vrai, WGN-TV and 90.9FM WDCB.

For the latest information on the Chicago Jazz Festival, visit [chicagojazzfestival.us](http://chicagojazzfestival.us), like us on Facebook at

Chicago Jazz Festival and follow us on Twitter ([@ChicagoDCASE](#), [@ChiJazzFest](#), [#ChicagoJazzFest](#)). For information on the Jazz Institute of Chicago, visit [jazzinchicago.org/jazzfest](http://jazzinchicago.org/jazzfest).

### **Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events:**

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) is dedicated to enriching Chicago's artistic vitality and cultural vibrancy. This includes fostering the development of Chicago's non-profit arts sector, independent working artists and for-profit arts businesses; providing a framework to guide the City's future cultural and economic growth, via the 2012 Chicago Cultural Plan; marketing the City's cultural assets to a worldwide audience; and presenting high-quality, free and affordable cultural programs for residents and visitors.

### **Jazz Institute of Chicago:**

Founded in 1969, the not for profit Jazz Institute of Chicago has programmed the Chicago Jazz Festival in partnership with the City of Chicago since the festival began in 1979. The organization's mission to promote and nurture jazz in Chicago is carried out by providing jazz education for youth and adults, supporting the creation of new work by Chicago jazz musicians; growing the audience for jazz by presenting programs that are free and available for all and fostering a thriving jazz community.

### **Millennium Park:**

Millennium Park is Chicago's town square, the #1 attraction in the Midwest and among the Top 10 most-visited sites in the U.S. Millennium Park is located on Michigan Avenue, bordered by Randolph St. to the north, Columbus Dr. to the east and Monroe St. to the south. The Park is open 6am–11pm daily. For the latest news and events, download the Millennium Park app, visit [millenniumpark.org](http://millenniumpark.org), like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram, [@Millennium\\_Park](#).

### **WFMT Radio Network:**

The WFMT Radio Network ([www.wfmt.com/network](http://www.wfmt.com/network)), a division of Window to the World Communication Inc., is a Chicago-based non-profit creator and distributor of programs about arts and culture that are syndicated to hundreds of stations around the world. For decades, the WFMT Radio Network has worked with some of the most admired arts organizations such as Carnegie Hall, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Poetry Foundation, Edinburgh Festival, and the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra. Its *Jazz Network* is heard on 60+ stations reaching approximately 200,000 weekly listeners nationally.

### **WDCB 90.9FM**

WDCB, "Chicago's Home for Jazz," is a listener-supported, public radio station that broadcasts more than 130 hours of jazz each week from the campus of College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn. WDCB serves Chicagoland with jazz, blues, roots music and arts programming. WDCB can be heard throughout Chicagoland on 90.9FM, also from WDCB's 90.7FM booster signal in the West Loop, via streaming worldwide on [www.WDCB.org](http://www.WDCB.org) and in the city of Chicago via cable television on CAN TV42.

### **Choose Chicago**

Choose Chicago® is the official destination marketing organization for Chicago, Illinois. Its mission is to bring regional, national and international business and leisure visitors to Chicago for the economic benefit of the city, the community and its membership. For more information, visit [www.choosechicago.com](http://www.choosechicago.com).

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