



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Music Bridging Nations: Grand Finale in Chicago's Millennium Park

FORT SHERIDAN, IL. – Following an impressive year of performances at venues throughout Chicago including the Harris Theater of Music and Dance, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, and the Civic Opera House, which brought in audiences of unprecedented proportions, **Midwest Young Artists (MYA)** students will complete their 19-day international summer tour to China and Korea with a grand performance in **Chicago's Millennium Park** on **Monday, August 13**, at 6:30 PM.

As ambassadors of the United States, members of Midwest Young Artists' Symphony Orchestra, Big Band, and Chorale, will depart on **July 24, 2007**, for a **nineteen day international tour to China and Korea**. The extraordinary trip includes performances in six major cities; Beijing, Xi' an, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Shanghai and Seoul, and performances in prestigious venues including the Seoul Arts Center, Peoples Auditorium of Xi'an, the Shanghai Concert Hall, and the Zhong Shan Concert Hall in the Forbidden City. All six cities selected for the tour were chosen as the result of their strength, support and interest for musical activities as well as for their richness of heritage and cultural appeal. Not only will MYA students have an opportunity to perform throughout the country, but they will also have the opportunity to interact with Chinese musicians as they collaborate in a performance and stay for a night with youth orchestra students in Beijing. MYA's youth will have the cultural experience of visiting Asia, but they will also be drawing two cultures closer together through music, a must for a time when global thinking and understanding is increasingly necessary.

On **Monday, August 13, 2007**, at **6:30 PM**, join Midwest Young Artists' Symphony, Big Band and Chorale, for their grand finale at Jay Pritzker Pavilion, as Chicago's renowned Millennium Park presents **Midwest Young Artists: Welcome Home Concert**. "There is no better way to end our international tour than to be able to perform it at home, in Chicago, with our friends, supporters and admirers to cheer us on!" states MYA's Director, Allan Dennis. Hear Tchaikovsky's fabulous *Symphony No. 5*, Bernstein's *Candide Overture*, and Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, along with heart-

warming renditions of popular jazz standards by Ellington, Strayhorn, and Nestico, and concluding with the beautiful sounds of MYA's Chorale as they perform selections from Chinese and Korean Folk Songs. The concert is FREE and open to the public. More information is available at www.mya.org or by calling 847.926.9898. We hope that you will be able to join us for this spectacular evening celebrating music and youth in Chicago and beyond!

Located in downtown Chicago on Michigan Avenue between Randolph and Monroe Streets, the **24.5-acre Millennium Park** is an unprecedented center for world-class art, music, architecture and landscape design. Among the park's prominent features are the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; the contemporary Lurie Garden designed by the team of Kathryn Gustafson, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture. For more information about Millennium Park, visit www.millenniumpark.org or call 312-742-1168. Visit www.millenniumpark.org to sign up for the new Millennium Park e-newsletter!

With a vision to create an exceptional environment for young musicians, Dr. Allan Dennis founded **Midwest Young Artists** (878 Lyster Road, Highwood, 847-926-9898) in 1993. Currently reaching over 600 students from 74 cities in the metropolitan Chicago area, with students ranging in age from 2nd through 12th grades, MYA strives to provide the highest quality music experience for young musicians nationwide. MYA expects the best out of its students and provides a supportive and nurturing environment. It is a place where students are able to grow with their peers in a competitive, yet friendly atmosphere. MYA has 5 youth orchestras, more than 60 chamber music ensembles, 3 choral groups, an all-inclusive jazz program, and classes in music theory and history. Students have the opportunity to travel abroad and to perform in major venues throughout Chicago and around the world. Leading the nation in chamber music instruction, MYA graduates are accepted at the most selective conservatories, universities and colleges in the country.

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