

NEWS RELEASE

CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER • 78 EAST WASHINGTON STREET • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

TEL: (312)744-6630 • FAX: (312) 742-2783 • TTY: (312)744-2947 • www.cityofchicago.org/CulturalAffairs/

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MEDIA CONTACT

Kennon Brown 312.744.8948
kennon.brown@cityofchicago.org

HANDEL'S ACIS AND GALATEA

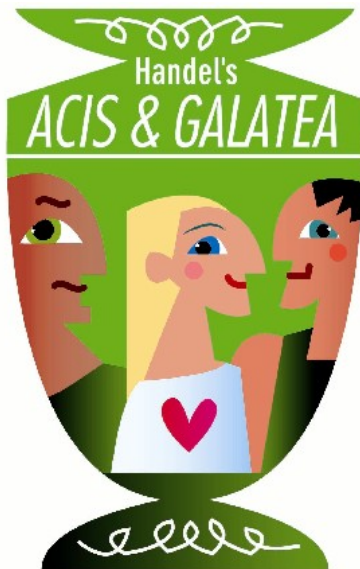
11th Annual Summer Opera Presents 4 Free Performances

July 28, 30, and August 1 | Chicago Cultural Center
August 3 | Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Millennium Park

Free admission!

This summer, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) presents its eleventh annual free Summer Opera, Handel's *Acis and Galatea*. Handel's most popular dramatic work, *Acis and Galatea*, offers a feast of gloriously melodic music and an escape into a mythological world. Fully costumed and staged, the opera will be performed in English and accompanied by members of the [New Millennium Orchestra of Chicago](#). Music director Francesco Milioto will lead the performance from the harpsichord. [Joanie Schultz](#), and exciting opera and theater director, will stage direct.

Three performances (July 28, 30 and August 1) will be presented in Preston Bradley Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street. An encore performance (August 3) will be presented at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, 201 E. Randolph Street. The encore performance in Millennium Park marks the **first time that a full opera has been performed live on the stage of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion**, bringing free opera to an even wider audience.



All performances are free and open to the public. **Times and ticket availability to be announced.** Admission is free to all performances, but tickets are required for the Chicago Cultural Center dates and will need to be obtained in person. For updated information on the Chicago Cultural Center performances, visit www.ChicagoCulturalCenter.org or call 312.744.6630. For updated information on the Millennium Park encore performance, visit www.MillenniumPark.org or call 312.742.1168

Audience and critical response to past Summer Opera productions has been consistently positive, and tickets for this free production typically "sell out" within days. Previous DCA Summer Operas have included: *The Breasts of Tiresias* by Francis Poulenc (1999); *Master Peter's Puppet Show* by Manuel de Falla (Co-production with Chicago Opera Theater, 2000); *The Impresario* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (2001); *The Marriage of Figaro* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (2001); *Candide* by Leonard Bernstein (2003); A French Double Bill: *The Bewitched Child* by Maurice Ravel and *Genevieve of Brabant* by Erik Satie (2004); *The Love for Three Oranges* by Sergei Prokofiev (2005); *The Magic Flute* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (2006); *Il Signor Bruschino* by Rossini (2007); and *Djamileh* by Georges Bizet (2008).

About the Chicago Cultural Center

As one of the most comprehensive free arts showcases in the United States, the Chicago Cultural Center – a landmark building – is the setting for hundreds of programs and exhibitions presented annually by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. Through collaborative programming, admission-free exhibitions and programs covering a wide range of the performing, visual, and literary arts, events are presented on practically every day of the year. Designed in the beaux-arts style by the Boston firm Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, the Chicago Cultural Center was completed in 1897. The remarkable monument was inspired by the neo-classical style of the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. One of the building's most notable features is the 38-foot mosaic dome in Preston Bradley Hall – said to be the world's largest Tiffany stained-glass dome. Visit www.ChicagoCulturalCenter.org for more information.

About Millennium Park

Millennium Park is an award-winning center for art, music, architecture and landscape design. The result of a unique partnership between the City of Chicago and the philanthropic community, the 24.5-acre park features the work of world-renowned architects, planners, artists and designers. Among Millennium 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 Gustafson Guthrie Nichol Ltd, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture. Since its opening in July 2004, Millennium Park has welcomed more than 16 million people, making it one of the most popular destinations in Chicago. Visit www.MillenniumPark.org

Acis and Galatea image designed by Chicago artist David Lee Csicsko.

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