

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

CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER PRESENTS GUATEMALAN MARIMBA CONCERT AND TOP UK FOLK ENSEMBLE IN MAY

Marimba Nacional de Concierto | Monday, May 11, 7 pm | Guatemalan marimba
Rachel Unthank & Winterset | Sunday, May 31, 7 pm | UK folk

Free admission!

This May, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs presents two concerts as part of the *Chicago Cultural Center Presents* series, an ongoing showcase series that highlights critically acclaimed national and international musicians who are rarely seen by Chicago audiences in mainstream venues. All concerts takes place at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 East Washington Street. Admission is free.

Marimba Nacional de Concierto

Monday May 11, 7 pm | Preston Bradley Hall



The marimba is the national instrument and native symbol of Guatemala, and the ensemble Marimba Nacional de Concierto are the country's most celebrated musical ambassadors. The esteemed troupe features eight marimba masters, along with a bassist and a percussionist. Lester Homero God'nez Orantes created ensemble Marimba Nacional de Concierto (The National Marimba Ensemble) of Guatemala in 1975 as a non-profit organization dedicated to studying, investigating and showcasing all things marimba, including promoting the Guatemala marimba at home and around the world. The group's repertoire includes indigenous roots music, popular music, contemporary music, music of the academy and any form of composition that can extend the reach of the instrument. This concert is supported by The

Mayan Folkloric Organization of Chicago. For more information on the artists, visit www.mayanfolkloric.org

Rachel Unthank & Winterset

Sunday May 31, 7 pm | Preston Bradley Hall



Hailing from Northumberland, England, Rachel Unthank & the Winterset are an all-girl folk foursome who've caused quite a stir among genre connoisseurs and new-music lovers alike. Given their rich traditional credentials and determination to represent the pure roots of their music, they quickly gained acceptance and acclaim within and beyond the established folk scene. Their 2005 debut, *Cruel Sister*, won Mojo magazine's "Folk Album of the Year." Their equally captivating 2007 follow-up, *The Bairns*, was nominated for a Mercury Prize. Their live debut at Old Town School Of Folk Music last September as part of World Music Festival: Chicago 2008, was recently recognized as one of the "Best of Chicago Live Shows of 2008"

by the Chicago Reader. The live ensemble features haunting Geordie voices and layered arrangements of piano, violin, cello and occasional tapping feet. For more information on the artists, visit www.rachelunthank.com

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