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**CUTTING-EDGE INDIE ROCK, POP AND MORE IN MILLENNIUM PARK'S
NEW SERIES "DOWNTOWN SOUND: NEW MUSIC MONDAYS" 2009**

Special Headliner and Allá | Monday, June 8, 6:30pm
The Sea and Cake and Dirty Projectors | Monday, June 22, 6:30pm
The Feelies and Icy Demons | Monday, June 29, 7:30pm
Rokia Traoré and Shearwater | Monday, August 10, 6:30pm
Otto and NOMO | Monday, August 17, 6:30pm
Red Red Meat and Rural Alberta Advantage | Monday, August 24, 6:30pm

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Millennium Park present **Downtown Sound: New Music Mondays** featuring cutting-edge indie rock, pop and more from Chicago and beyond on select Mondays (June-August 2009). Downtown Sound: New Music Mondays is a unique series bringing some of the freshest "news making" artists and groundbreaking rock veterans to the world renowned Jay Pritzker Pavilion. This series highlights international groups such as Rokia Traoré (Mali), Rural Alberta Advantage (Canada) and Otto (Brazil) intertwined with national and local favorites such as The Sea and Cake (Chicago), The Feelies (North Haledon, NJ) and Shearwater (Austin).

Downtown Sound: New Music Mondays is part of a collection of three new Monday series in Millennium Park, which also includes Dusk Variations: A Chamber Series on Monday evenings and Edible Audible Picnic at noon, expanding the repertoire of music at Millennium Park.

Each concert will be emceed by a talented performer from the innovative organization Young Chicago Authors. Support for this new series is provided by Andy's Pro Hire.

For more information about **Millennium Park**, call 312.742.1168 or visit www.millenniumpark.org.

Complete schedule:

Monday, June 8, 6:30pm

Special headliner and Allá

Chicago-based Mexican-American three piece Allá was formed by young artists

with a broad range of tastes and musical interests. They have created a unique sound encompassing some of their favorite styles from German Krautrock experiments, Motown, Brazilian Tropicalia, cosmic jazz and traditional Mexican music. Allá will be opening for a special headliner to be announced.

Monday, June 22, 6:30pm

The Sea and Cake and Dirty Projectors

Formed in the mid nineties, native Chicago band, The Sea and Cake, recently produced their 8th full length album *Car Alarm* demonstrating their ability to continuously produce new music discoveries. The band utilizes electronic sound sources such as drum machines and synthesizers while retaining a distinctive post-jazz combo style. The band line-up includes Sam Prekop (vocals, guitar), Archer Prewitt (guitar, piano, vocals), John McEntire (percussion, drums, some synthesizer) and Eric Claridge (bass, synthesizer).

Dirty Projectors, founded by David Longstreth in 2002, is set to release their fifth full length album, *Bitte Orca*, in June. The Brooklyn based band features an expanded 6 member line up including David Longstreth, Angel Deradoorian, Amber Coffman, Brian Mcomber, Nat Baldwin and Haley Dekle.

Monday, June 29, 7:30pm***

The Feelies and Icy Demons

*****Note later start time.**

Don't miss New Jersey's legendary and influential rock/punk band The Feelies' first Chicago reunion show. Formed in the seventies, the band released four albums of shimmering soundscapes with multiple guitar layers. This highly anticipated reunion brings The Feelies' distinctive sound back to live performance for long-time fans and a generation of fans who have only savored their long out-of-print records and CDs.

Emanating from the mind of stalwart Chicago recording engineer Griffin Rodriguez, Icy Demons has become one of today's most exciting genre bending acts. Combining elements of 60s psychedelia, hip-hop and jazz are a few elements that contribute to the energetic and fast paced performance.

Monday, August 10, 6:30pm

Rokia Traoré and Shearwater

Celebrating a new album, Mali's Rokia Traoré is recognized as one of the greatest voices in Africa today. Full of freshness and verve, with natural authority and great integrity in her artistic choices, she has charmed many of Africa's most influential musicians. She is perhaps most celebrated for her live shows, which *Time Out London* says are "arguably the most exciting, most thrilling live African music show around."

Texan trio Shearwater opens for Rokia Traoré bringing their unusual instrumentation and oddly disquieting art-rock songs to the Jay Pritzker Pavilion.

Monday, August 17, 6:30pm

Otto and NOMO

Brazilian lyricist and musician Otto's rural upbringing in the north-eastern of Pernambuco inspired his fusion of myriad rhythms and beats. Otto played a crucial role in the new generation of music in Brazil "New MPB" which stands for New Popular Music of Brazil as well as part of the Brazilian musical movement called Manguebeat. Otto's approaches to classic Brazilian rhythms and melodies embrace a contemporary seamless blend of pop, rock and soul.

NOMO, an afrobeat band from Ann Arbor, Michigan, kicks off the evening with its minimalist inspired keyboard loops, fuzzed-out bass, soulful group vocals, and rolling blasts from the electric mbira.

Monday, August 24, 6:30pm

Red Red Meat and Rural Alberta Advantage

Native Chicago band Red Red Meat infuses alternative rock beats with a blues sound. The band recently emerged with a re-release of their 1995 album *Bunny Gets Paid* that includes a preliminary unreleased song. Although the band has never officially gone through a break up, the group only reunites a few times a year, making this a concert not to miss.

Rural Alberta Advantage opens the evening with their indie-rock folk songs about hometowns and heartbreak, born of images from growing up in Central/Northern Alberta.

About Millennium Park

Millennium Park is located in the heart of downtown Chicago. It is bordered by Michigan Ave. to the west, Columbus Dr. to the east, Randolph St. to the north and Monroe St. to the south. Convenient parking is located in the Millennium Park Garage (entrance on Columbus at Monroe or Randolph) and at the Grant Park North and East Monroe Garages, all located within a short walking distance of Millennium Park.

Millennium Park, managed and programmed by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, 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, 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.

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