



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ChiArts Jazz Combo to Join More Than 40 of Chicago's Cultural Icons for the First Time at Navy Pier for *Chicago LIVE Again!*

The two-day lakefront celebration will take place Sept. 24-25, uniting The Chicago High School for the Arts' Jazz Combo with showstopping institutions like Broadway in Chicago, The Joffrey Ballet, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago and more

CHICAGO — The Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts) is excited to announce its participation with *Chicago LIVE Again!*—a first-of-its-kind, free, two-day outdoor festival hosted by Navy Pier, to celebrate Chicago's arts and entertainment industry as it makes its triumphant return to live stages across the city since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The outdoor event, held on Friday, Sept. 24 and Saturday, Sept. 25, will include live performances not only from ChiArts Jazz Combo, but also from more than 40 other cultural icons around the city including Broadway in Chicago, Chicago Children's Choir, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Puerto Rican Arts Alliance, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Joffrey Ballet, Black Ensemble Theatre, Lyric Opera's Ryan Opera Center and other esteemed cultural institutions and artists.

Performances will run continuously on two main stages, the Lake Stage in Polk Bros Park and the East End Stage from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and from noon to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday. ChiArts Jazz Combo will perform on the Lake Stage located south of the pier in Polk Bros Park on Saturday, September 25 at 4:30 PM. The festival is standing room only, but guests are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets and grab food on the go from a variety of sit-down and/or carry-out restaurants at the Pier. To top off the momentous weekend, Navy Pier will also host a special fireworks display on Sept. 25 at 9:45 p.m., courtesy of an anonymous donor, as a tribute to the return of theater in Chicago.

ChiArts Artistic Director Tina Boyer Brown shares "It's a really exciting opportunity for our scholar-artists and a great chance for them to learn their craft."

"Navy Pier is incredibly proud to become the stage for the return of live performances to Chicago. There could be no better place than the People's Pier to reunite audiences and artists as an industry that was hit so hard by the pandemic finally returns to work," said **Navy Pier President and CEO Marilynn Gardner**. "Many nonprofit cultural organizations, Navy Pier among them, faced existential crises over the past 16 months. Though we have not completely vanquished the virus, it has not vanquished us. Our community is resilient, and our will is strong—as evidenced by the level of work and spirit of cooperation it takes to make an event of this scale happen. Never before have so many of Chicago's greatest institutions shared the stage."

Chicago LIVE Again! was made possible through a generous grant from the Pritzker Foundation.

"Navy Pier is a vital leader in the arts and cultural landscape of Chicago and beyond," said **Penny Pritzker, trustee of the Pritzker Foundation**. "We are proud to serve as a partner to the Pier, as it is a platform for so many unique and beloved

cultural programs and institutions. This event will allow our arts and culture organizations to deliver a message of resiliency and inspiration together. This is not only a celebration of the city's reopening, but a meaningful tribute to the immense diversity and vibrancy of our region. We know this event will have a deep impact in uniting and uplifting our community and we are proud to support it."

Chicago Live Again! is the recipient of a \$562,500 grant from the Illinois Office of Tourism, a part of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). This funding was made possible through Governor Pritzker's Tourism Attractions & Festivals Grant Program, which leverages federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support new attractions and festivals that will lend to the return of tourism and foot traffic across Illinois communities. This program is one of several underway by the State of Illinois to put Illinois communities and key industries on a path to economic recovery from COVID-19.

"The State of Illinois is proud to support the *Chicago LIVE Again!* festival at Navy Pier, leveraging one of Illinois' iconic cultural attractions to host new exciting performances from our premier cultural institutions," said **DCEO Acting Director Sylvia Garcia**. "Under Governor Pritzker's leadership and in partnership with local leaders we are continuing to bring tourism back safely. We encourage communities across the state to apply for funds from our Tourism Attractions and Festivals Grant program. This program is designed to help bring back community festivals and cultural experiences that generate economic activity and improve quality of life while investing in the hard-hit tourism industry."

"Our arts and entertainment industry is a vital part of our thriving cultural scene, which has long attracted visitors from across the country and served as a major economic engine for Chicago and Illinois as a whole," said **Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot**. "'Chicago LIVE Again!' at Navy Pier' will thus serve as another reminder to the world that our city is safely open for work and play and brings thousands of jobs for our residents to take advantage of."

"*Chicago LIVE Again!* is the manifestation of what can happen when we all come together. Cultural investment is part of the heartbeat of this city and despite all that we have been through in the last 16 months, our heartbeat is still very strong," said **State Rep. Kam Buckner (D-Chicago)**. "This collaboration between the pillars of Chicago's cultural and arts community, organized labor, government, and others will highlight our resilience and the continuation of the vibrancy of our people as we work to find ways to bring us all together in the face of adversity."

Like so many Chicagoans, I've visited Navy Pier since childhood to watch the fireworks and watch extraordinary musical and theatrical productions time and time again," said **Illinois State Sen. Robert Peters (D-Chicago)**. "From the 13th District's Oak Street Beach to the Indiana Border, arts organizations have struggled to survive the pandemic, yet continued to do amazing work. By providing the inspiration that only live performances can offer, *Chicago LIVE Again!* generates new hope, creates jobs and positively impacts the arts community in my district and beyond."

"On behalf of thousands of Chicago area stagehands, carpenters, electricians, tradespeople and other union workers, who help create everything from the simplest acoustic concerts to the grandest theatrical spectacles, we are grateful to be honored by this two-day festival dedicated to our return to work after our venues were shuttered and dark for 16 months," said **Craig Carlson, IATSE Local 2 Business Manager and International Vice President**. "It's work we love, and the standard of excellence in our trade is when the audience enjoys a spectacular event and does not even know we are there, making the event happen. But today, we're glad to be seen, and we thank Navy Pier and the many companies and artists who are bringing live performance back in such a big way this fall. We're proud to stand with you."

The full list of *Chicago LIVE Again!* performers is available on the [Navy Pier website](#) and will be updated as more performances are finalized leading up to the event.

Guests will be required to show COVID vaccination card or proof of a negative test within the past 48 hours to access the designated performance areas. Alternatively, free rapid testing will be available on site. To help guests prepare for the fall arts season, vaccinations also will be available during the two-day event. [Click here](#) to view Navy Pier's COVID-19 operations and updates.

Navy Pier is operating in accordance with the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on matters related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Chicago requires that all individuals must wear a face mask indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status. Masks may be removed while dining. [Click here](#) to view Navy Pier’s COVID-19 operations and updates.

For more information, visit www.navypier.org.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO ACCESS THE CHICAGO LIVE AGAIN! PRESS KIT, INCLUDING B-ROLL, PHOTOS AND LOGO.

ABOUT NAVY PIER

Located on Lake Michigan, Navy Pier is the top nonprofit tourism destination in the Midwest, stretching more than six city blocks and typically welcoming nearly 9 million annual guests. Originally opened in 1916 as a shipping and recreation facility, this Chicago landmark showcases more than 50 acres of parks, restaurants, attractions, retail shops, sightseeing and dining cruise boats, exposition facilities and more. The Pier celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2016 with the unveiling of the iconic *Centennial Wheel*, *Polk Bros Park*, *Fifth Third Bank Family Pavilion* and *Peoples Energy Welcome Pavilion*. In 2021, Navy Pier continues to usher in its second century with ongoing Pier-wide redevelopment efforts—including Sable, a 223-room Hilton hotel, new restaurants and partnerships, and thrilling additions to Pier Park. The Pier is also proud to continue providing free, year-round arts and cultural programming designed to inspire, educate and connect communities across the city and globe. [Click here](#) to donate to Navy Pier, a mission-driven 501(c)(3) organization, in support of the organization’s post-pandemic revival and free public programming. For more information, visit www.navypier.org.

Navy Pier Mission Statement

Navy Pier is the People’s Pier, Chicago’s lakefront treasure, welcoming all and offering dynamic and eclectic experiences through partnerships and programs that inspire discovery and wonder.

ABOUT THE CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS (CHIARTS)

The Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts) is Chicago’s first public high school for the arts. With disciplines in creative writing, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, ChiArts provides its scholar-artists with a tuition-free, pre-professional arts training program paired with a college preparatory academic curriculum. ChiArts opened its doors in 2009 and has graduated eight classes of scholar-artists at a rate between 92-100% each year. Furthermore, the School prioritizes accepting novice students who may not have had access to formal arts training but clearly exhibit an ability and desire to learn and grow in their chosen art form. Learn more about recent ChiArts news and performances on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#). For more general information about ChiArts, visit <https://chiarts.org>.

The Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts) Mission Statement

The Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts®) develops the next generation of diverse, artistically promising scholar-artists through intensive pre-professional training in the arts, combined with a comprehensive college preparatory curriculum.