



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Navy Pier Turns Up the Heat with a Hot \*NEW\* *Lunchtime Concert Series*  
at Navy Pier's Crystal Gardens**  
*Free Concerts Feature Acoustic Music From Around the World.*

CHICAGO (January 18, 2006). Navy Pier "spices up" this winter's lunch routines and cuisines, by offering a "hot" \*new\* Crystal Gardens Lunchtime Concert Series, featuring music from around the world. Performers will present a cultural sampling of Latin, Indian, Spanish, French, West African, Hungarian, Middle Eastern and Irish/Celtic tunes. Visitors can groove to the rhythms and melodies in this one-of-a-kind mid-day music break, from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., every Thursday from January 18 through March 22. This event is FREE and open to the public.

Chicagoans and city visitors are encouraged to bring or buy their lunch, relax and enjoy this acoustic hour in Navy Pier's serene, indoor tropical garden on Lake Michigan. This unique lunchtime entertainment experience is the perfect way to return to work, school or play, rejuvenated after "satisfying your palate" with some of the world's most dynamic music.

"This is just one of the many entertainment values provided by Navy Pier that allows visitors to have a unique experience each time they visit us. The Lunchtime Concert Series will add flavor to a "routine" lunch hour by providing a savory mix of "live" music performances during the midday," says General Manager Marilyn Gardner.

**Navy Pier kicks-off this lunchtime concert series on Thursday, January 18, 2006 at 12:00 p.m.** with a live performance by *Alfonso Ponticelli & Swing Gitan*, a unique blend of Spanish/French gypsy jazz. In the spirit of guitarist Django Reinhardt, *Swing Gitan* performs upbeat guitar and violin melodies that can be traced back to the centuries-old Gitano caravans of France and Spain.

No reservation is required. Seating is available on a first come, first serve basis.

**Navy Pier's schedule of performances is as follows:**

**Maninder Singh and Rahul Neuman (Indian contemporary)**

**Thursday, January 25, 2007**

Description: Singh and Neuman create trance-like rhythms and melodies using tabla drums and sitar (stringed instrument).

**Morikeba Kouyate (Senegalese Kora)**

**Thursday, February 1, 2007**

Description: Originally from Senegal, Kouyate is one of the few masters of the Kora: a 21-string harp-like instrument from West Africa that consists of a large gourd covered in cowhide.

**Havana (Afro-Cuban)**

**Thursday, February 8, 2007**

Description: For the past 12 years, Latin jazz favorite Havana has been an integral part of the Chicago music scene, joyfully combining the instrumentation of trumpet, saxophone, bass, guitar, conga, and timbale.

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**Alpha and the Princes of Futa (West African)**

**Thursday, February 15, 2007**

Description: Guinean singer Alpha Diallo and the Princes of Futa will perform their unique fusion of West African tribal beats and American jazz.

**Yves Francois et Rocambu Jazz (African jazz/rumba)**

**Thursday, February 22, 2007**

Description: Borrowing from the music of New Orleans (Dixieland), Martinique (beguine), Jamaica (ska), Cuba (conga) and the Congo (rumba), Rocambu Jazz brings it all together with their festive and rich Afro-Caribbean sound.

**Alex Udvary Trio (Hungarian cimbalom)**

**Thursday, March 1, 2007**

Description: This trio performs traditional Hungarian folk music, featuring a hammered dulcimer-like instrument called a cimbalom.

**Mosaic Trio (Middle Eastern classical)**

**Thursday, March 8, 2007**

Description: This ensemble will showcase traditional music from the Arabic, Sephardic, Egyptian, Levantine, Turkish, and Armenian repertoire, featuring qanun (trapezoid-shape box stringed instrument), flute and hand percussion.

**Anish (Irish/Celtic)**

**Thursday, March 15, 2007**

Description: Led by Galway, Ireland-native Aidan O'Toole, this flute, fiddle, and percussion trio performs traditional Irish music in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

**Trio Le Bon Vent (French classical)**

**Thursday, March 22, 2007**

Description: Translated to mean "The Good Wind," Le Bon Vent features accordion, clarinet and guitar, and reaches beyond classical French music into jazz, cabaret and gypsy.

Tony Sarabia, host of the Chicago Public Radio program, *Passport*, will introduce each week's performance and will then re-broadcast the concert on WBEZ 91.5 FM

Navy Pier is accessible via Metra, CTA, Taxi and Navy Pier's FREE Trolley Services is available between Navy Pier and State Street along Grand Avenue and Illinois Street starting at 10:00 a.m. daily.

For more information about transportation to Navy Pier please visit our website at [www.navypier.com](http://www.navypier.com) or call 312-595-PIER.