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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

****MEDIA ALERT****

A FREE Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Featuring Traditional Live Music, Folk Dancers and Fireworks at Navy Pier®

Come experience vibrant folk dancers, listen to the rhythms of Latin Rock, Salsa, Flamenco, Mariachi and then enjoy a synchronized fireworks show to music mixed by Mi Musica 106.7

CULTURAL PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

WHO: Chicagoans and visitors excited to celebrate the Hispanic culture...

WHAT: ...gather at Navy Pier for an enriching cultural experience shared with people who trace their ancestry to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central & South America and the Caribbean. All gather at the Navy Pier Beer Garden to celebrate the cultural sounds and rhythms of the Hispanic culture with traditional instruments, music, song, folk dancers and festive costumes. This is fun for the entire family and culminates with a spectacular fireworks display set to a special soundtrack mixed by local radio station, My Musica 106.7.

WHEN: **Friday, September 25th from 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**
Saturday, September 26th from 2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 27th from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Navy Pier
Beer Garden Bud Light Stage
600 E. Grand Avenue
Chicago, IL 60601

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Navy Pier Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month 2009

Schedule of Events:

Friday, September 25

5:00pm - 7:00pm: El Payo (Flamenco Guitars/Dance)

8:00pm - 10:00pm: Los Vicios de Papa (Ska/Rock)

9:00pm – Fireworks! Soundtrack provided by Mi Musica 106.7.

Saturday, September 26

2:00pm - 4:00pm: Mariachi Perla de Mexico (Mexican Mariachi)

5:00pm - 5:45pm: Ballet Folklorico Nacional Victor Soria (Costumed Folk Dancers)

6:30pm - 7:15pm: DJ Jr. Lopez & DJ Spin Doctor

7:30pm - 8:45pm: Castellano (Latin Rock)

9:00pm – Fireworks! Soundtrack provided by Mi Musica 106.7

Sunday, September 27

1:00pm - 3:00pm: Mexican Dance Ensemble (Costumed Folk Dancers)

4:00pm - 6:00pm: Johnny Blas Orchestra (Salsa/Tropical)

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ARTIST BIOS:

El Payo

<http://www.myspace.com/elpayo>

El Payo is a Rumba/Nuevo Flamenco-Fused group based in Chicago. Its members hail from countries such as Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia and the United States. The group's distinct sound is influenced by a rich combination of rumbas, traditional and modern flamenco, as well flamenco-infused original compositions. Their dynamic, soulful sound is usually accompanied by intense flamenco dance performances. El Payo opened the prestigious 2005 and 2006 USA Flamenco Festival in Chicago, and have opened for internationally known artists such as Juan Carmona, Pitingo and Lila Downs. They have also appeared on ABC's Chicagoing with Bill Campbell. Performance highlights include: Millennium Park's Pritzker Pavilion, Navy Pier, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Taste of Chicago, and the HotHouse Loft. The group is led by singer David Gonzalez, flamenco guitarist David Chiriboga, percussionist/drummer Raul Fernandez, dancer/percussionist Edwin Suarez, bass guitarist Tom Kimball, and trumpet player Victor Garcia.

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Los Vicios de Papa

www.losviciosdepapa.com

www.myspace.com/losviciosdepapa

Los Vicios De Papa started in 2001 as the first Latin Ska band in the Windy City. Although the group has been in existence for less than eight years, Los Vicios De Papa has quickly achieved wide recognition through hard work and a true love for music.

In addition to helping jump-start a vibrant Chicago Latin Ska scene, LVDP has crossed over and opened for major American touring acts. Their lyrics tackle diverse issues and experiences that affect all of us: love, injustice, happiness, hope, and perseverance. Los Vicios De Papa features dancehall, traditional ska, reggae, and fuses cumbia, cha-cha-cha and other world music genres, creating an eclectic sound that whips fans into a dance-frenzy.

Mariachi Perla de Mexico

<http://www.perlademexico.com/>

Founded in 1997, Mariachi Perla de México has grown to 12 members including five violinists, three trumpet players, bassist (guitarron), vihuela player (small guitar), and a guitarist. The group performs a wide variety of classical and folkloric music from Mexico and zarzuelas from Spain. They recently performed at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion at Chicago's Millennium Park for the 2005 World Music Festival.

Ballet Folklorico Nacional Victor Soria

Ballet Folklorico Nacional Victor Soria was founded in November 1995 in Chicago and has performed all across the nation. The group has danced at the State Fair in Springfield, IL, for 8 years and has even received a key to the city from Las Vegas, NV. The company has 70 dancers including children ages 6 and up.

Castellano

www.myspace.com/grupocastellano

www.castellanomusic.com

An impromptu jam session at a friend's party brought the five members of Castellano together. After a couple of songs, Edgar (guitar and vocals), Tony (bass and guitar), Omar (drums and vocals), Milton (keys and vocals) and Noel (guitar), knew they were on to something. Each of them had a different style and together they created a special mix that melded the best from a broad spectrum of music.

Combining their musical talents, original lyrics, rock riffs and Latin rhythms, Castellano brings freshness to the music scene. Maintaining originality and staying true to their roots is a challenge – a challenge that they are successfully overcoming. Together they are setting out to capture the hearts and ears of a new audience. Each member is dedicated to the success of the band and that dedication promises a long career and the possibility of touching the lives of many with the music they love.

Mexican Dance Ensemble

<http://www.mdechicago.org>

Mexican Dance Ensemble is a professional Mexican folkloric dance group based in Chicago. Founded in November 2001, starting with 22 dance members, the group has since grown to 100 members and has performed at major venues and concert halls around the country. In 2005 MDE was awarded first place in La Gran Competencia De Cuadros Folkloricos in Dallas, TX, and the 2nd International Mexican Folkloric Dance Competition in New York City. The group has also received honors and awards from the State of Illinois, The Mexican Folkloric Dance Society of NY, the Folk Festival of North Texas, the Office of the Cook County Treasurer, The Government of the State of Guerrero, and the Resurrection Project. In 2008 MDE toured Spain, Portugal and the United Arab Emirates.

Johnny Blas Orchestra

www.myspace.com/johnnyblas

Percussionist/bandleader/composer Johnny Blas is a New York-native who has performed and recorded in the world of Jazz and Latin music for over 25 years. With five Latin Jazz CD's released on the Cubop Label, Blas's recordings showcase a majority of his own original arrangements. His music is currently played in the Top 10 U.S. radio markets and throughout Europe. His latest CD shows a different side of Johnny with a funky world beat seamlessly fusing Latin, Funk and Jazz.

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