

# MUSIC

HOME OF THE BLUES AND MORE

- Chicago – Blues Capital of the World
- Chicago Music Festivals – Celebrating a wealth of music heritage
- Chess Records – Chicago record label that changed the world
- WareHouse – Birthplace of the house music genre

Home to a diversity of music stars, from blues legends Muddy Waters and Eddy Clearwater to popular icons Smashing Pumpkins and Kanye West, Chicago is a city that is serious about music. From modern day house to blues, jazz and rock, the city's unique history has created a melting pot of some of the greatest sounds in the world today. Whether soaking in the atmosphere at its legendary jazz and blues bars, savouring the sublime sounds of its Chicago Symphony Orchestra or enjoying its vibrant summer season of music festivals, no snapshot of the world music scene would be complete without a closer look at this dynamic city.

## **CHICAGO BLUES**

Blues Capital of the World, Chicago is alive and thriving with one of the largest populations of blues musicians on the globe. With roots in the songs of slaves and folk hollers, the sound first developed in Chicago in the 1920s. The Wall Street Crash of 1929 prompted the development of the urban style for which Chicago is so famous and which truly broke out in the 1940s and 1950s with the emergence of artists like Muddy Waters – the prime mover of the now infamous Chicago electric blues scene.

### **Muddy Waters**

The most influential Chicago bluesman, Muddy Waters modernised the Mississippi Delta blues by adding an electric guitar, revolutionising the music's sound. The son of a sharecropper, Waters moved to Chicago during the 1940s where he signed with Chess Records and released his first single 'Rollin' Stone' that went on to inspire and influence the now legendary British rock band of the same name.



### **Chess Records**

Run by two brothers, the record label helped create Chicago's famous aggressive blues sound and also served as a catalyst for what would eventually become rock and roll with the early signings of Chuck Berry and Bo Diddley.

### **Blues Clubs**

Located near Ontario Street's 'restaurant row,' **Blue Chicago** on North Clark Street is a safe and friendly club, ideal for catching Chicago blues legends, such as Jody Williams and Eddy Clearwater, as well as yet-to-be discovered artists.

Renowned blues mecca, **Kingston Mines** on North Halsted Street provides continuous music seven nights a week with bands playing on two stages.

A legendary destination for the Chicago blues scene and owned by the star himself, **Buddy Guy's Legends** on South Wabash Avenue is the ideal spot for grooving to top local and national acts. Don't be surprised if Buddy hops onstage in an impromptu jam with visiting rock stars, who often stop in while on tour.

A former Chicago speakeasy, the **Green Mill Cocktail Lounge** on North Broadway Avenue hosted such headliners as Al Jolson, Eddie Cantor and Sophie Tucker. Today, the venue retains its prohibition décor and hosts a rich roster of musical acts.

### **ALL THAT JAZZ**

Often overlooked, the Chicago jazz scene and its history are every bit as vibrant and lively as that of the blues. The migration of African-Americans from the South to Chicago during and after World War I set the stage for the development of jazz in the city, with Chicago becoming one of its major centres in the 1920s. Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, Benny Goodman and Nat King Cole all lived and worked in Chicago at this time, cutting some of the most influential recordings in jazz history. Clubs host everything from smooth vocal sounds to far-out jazz at its best.



## **Jazz Clubs**

The **Cotton Club**, a fantastic jazz venue on South Michigan Avenue, recreates the Harlem original with a tradition of sophistication, elegance and nostalgia.

Premiere music venue, **Andy's Jazz Club** on East Hubbard Street, features an eclectic mix of mainstream, bebop and swing-jazz combos.

An upscale jazz club on North Ashland Avenue, **Green Dolphin Street** hosts acts of all sorts, from traditional jazz to Latin to big band. The adjoining restaurant has some of the finest and most innovative cuisine in the city.

At the 1920s Parisian-inspired **Pops for Champagne** on North State Street, veteran jazz pianists play to tables full of canoodling couples, sipping champagne and savouring dessert.

## **CHICAGO HOUSE**

Deriving its name from the nightclub WareHouse, house music was a genre born in the backstreets of Chicago. Popularised by legendary DJ Frankie Knuckles in the early 1980s, the sound broke out of underground clubs toward the end of the decade, making inroads on pop charts the world over before reaching today's status with its thriving commercial scene. Club goers today can dance the night away in WareHouse namesakes **Warehouse III** and **Warehouse Lounge**.

**HIP HOP, SOUL, ROCK and GOSPEL** also have their place in Chicago with dedicated clubs and bars found around the city.

## **MUSICAL MAGIC - FESTIVAL SEASON IN CHICAGO**

With its rich musical background, Chicago is a city that loves to celebrate all things music. Its season of festivals centres around Chicago's principal downtown park, Grant



Park. Nestled between Michigan Avenue and Lake Michigan, it becomes a hotbed of activity that makes Chicago a favourite destination for musicians and music fans the world over.

The largest annual blues festival in the world, the **Chicago Blues Festival** is currently in its 26<sup>th</sup> year of showcasing world-class talent with local, national and international performers. With a half million attendees over four days, past performers include Ray Charles, BB King, Shirley King, Chuck Berry, Ike Turner and Otis Rush. This year's free event will be held 11 - 14 June 2009.

The **Chicago Jazz Festival** was originally created as a simple tribute to jazz legend Duke Ellington. Celebrating its 31<sup>st</sup> year, it has grown to attract local, national and international performers. A result of the vibrant jazz scene in Chicago, this year's free event will be held 3 – 6 September 2009.

Soulful gospel music, one of the fastest growing musical genres in the United States can be experienced at the **Chicago Gospel Festival**. Now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, the event will be held 5 - 7 June 2009.

**Lollapalooza** in Chicago is more than just a concert - it is a musical, cultural, community experience. Bringing a mix of some of the biggest and most established musical acts with the hottest up-and-coming talents, this year's three-day event will be held from 7 – 9 August 2009.

The **Grant Park Music Festival**, featuring the award-winning Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus, will open its 75<sup>th</sup> annual season in its permanent home, the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park. Acclaimed by critics and beloved by audiences, the Grant Park Music Festival is the nation's only remaining free, municipally-funded, outdoor summer classical music series.



In its 21<sup>st</sup> year, the **Viva! Chicago Latin Music Festival** celebrates Latin music from around the globe. Hear Grant Park shake to the sounds of meringue, salsa and ranchero 29 - 30 August 2009.

Celebrating Chicago's cultural diversity, the **Chicago World Music Festival** features traditional, contemporary and fusion music from around the world. Held in mid-September and set in a variety of venues, musicians and bands travel from around the world to perform and take part in the event's seminars and workshops.

Experience bagpipers, storytellers and Celtic culture at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual **Chicago Celtic Fest**, held 19 - 20 September 2009. Listen to music from the Celtic regions of Cornwall, Scotland and the Isle of Man.

For more information on Chicago and Illinois, call the Chicago and Illinois UK Tourist Office's Brochure Line on +44 (0) 8700 503 410 or visit [www.gochicago.com](http://www.gochicago.com)

## ENDS

**For further information on the city of Chicago's ongoing initiatives, please contact Jackie Cooper PR:**

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Contact details for all bars, venues and festivals below.

### BAR, VENUE AND FESTIVAL DETAILS

Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
220 S Michigan Av  
+1 312 294 3333  
<http://www.cso.org/>

**Chicago Blues**  
Blue Chicago  
739 N Clark St  
+1 312 642 6261



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

Kingston Mines  
2548 N Halsted St  
+1 773 477 4646  
<http://www.kingstonmines.com/>

Buddy Guy's Legends  
754 S Wabash Ave  
+1 312 427 0333  
<http://buddyguys.com/>

**All that Jazz**  
Cotton Club  
1710 S Michigan Av  
+1 312 341 9787

Andy's Jazz Club  
11 E Hubbard St  
+1 312 642 6805  
<http://www.andysjazzclub.com/>

Green Dolphin Street  
2200 N Ashland Ave  
+1 773 395 0066  
<http://www.jazzitup.com/>

Pops for Champagne  
601 N. State St.  
+1 312 266 7677  
<http://www.popsforchampagne.com/>

**Chicago House**  
Warehouse III  
738 W Randolph St  
+1 312 454 9004

**Musical Magic – Festival Season**  
Chicago Blues Festival  
+1 312 744 3370  
<http://chicagobluesfestival.org/>

Chicago Jazz Festival  
+1 312 744 3370  
<http://www.chicagojazzfestival.org/>



Chicago Gospel Festival  
+1 312 744 3370  
[http://chicagofests.com/gospel\\_festival/](http://chicagofests.com/gospel_festival/)

Viva! Chicago Latin Music Festival  
+1 312 744 3370  
Chicago World Music Festival  
+1 312 742 1938  
<http://www.cityofchicago.org/WorldMusic>

Chicago Celtic Festival  
+1 312 744 3370

Lollapalooza  
+1 888 521 7469 <http://www.lollapalooza.com>