



Press Office
City of Chicago, Department of Aviation
Richard L. Rodriguez, Commissioner

April 23, 2008
Department of Aviation
Gregg Cunningham
(773) 686-3700
gcunningham@cityofchicago.org

Chicago Music Commission
Paul Natkin
(773) 255-1290
paul@chicago-music.org

Bruce Iglauer
(773) 973-7736
bruce@chicago-music.org

News Release

LOCAL MUSIC TAKES OFF AT CHICAGO'S AIRPORTS

New music program features Chicago's very own at O'Hare and Midway

CHICAGO – Music was in the air at O'Hare International Airport this afternoon with a one hour, live music showcase featuring performances by acclaimed Chicago artists Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr., Kelly Hogan, Rachel Barton-Pine and Lonnie Brooks. Today's *Celebrate Chicago Music* event paid tribute to Chicago's thriving music scene and officially launched *Terminal Tunes*, the Department of Aviation's re-vamped overhead music program at O'Hare and Midway International Airports. The new program was developed in collaboration with the Chicago Music Commission (CMC) and exclusively features artists who are either from the Chicago area or record for Chicago-based record labels.

"The new collaboration with the Chicago Music Commission brings breadth and depth to showcasing local music at our airports," said Jill McGee, Deputy Commissioner of Marketing and Communications for the Department of Aviation. "Thanks to this unique program, hundreds of thousands of air travelers will hear Chicago's distinct and diverse music culture every day."

Terminal Tunes features an extensive catalogue of mostly instrumental songs by local artists ranging from blues to jazz to country and classical. The music is provided through CMC and reflects the City's diverse music scene. The music is played at all times from the public address system in each terminal at O'Hare and Midway, as well as the O'Hare Air Transit System (ATS). Songs featured on *Terminal Tunes* are intended for travelers of all ages and from all parts of the world.

About 75 different artists, who are either from the Chicago area or record for Chicago-based record labels, are featured on the *Terminal Tunes* play list. Selections featured will vary over time, with new songs and artists continuously added to the mix.

"We are proud to partner with the Department of Aviation in presenting Chicago-based music at O'Hare and Midway," said Paul Natkin of CMC. "This project fits perfectly with our mission to promote Chicago music to the world."

Artist and album information, audio samples and play list logs are posted on the Chicago Airport System's website, www.flychicago.com. The *Terminal Tunes* webpage allows visitors to search for songs they've heard while traveling through the airport. CMC will supply fliers at both airports about the featured music and have artists' information on its website, www.chicago-music.org. Plans are also underway to offer *Terminal Tunes* CDs from select retail locations at O'Hare and Midway.

"We placed emphasis on selecting music for the program that's representative of the vast diversity of Chicago's music culture," said Bruce Iglauer, Founder and President of Alligator Records and CMC member. "Our ultimate goal is to cover as many genres as possible on the play list."

Today's *Celebrate Chicago Music* showcase included live performances by the following four Chicago area artists in Terminal 2 at O'Hare:

Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr. is a polka musician and leader of the grammy-nominated band, the Versatones. Blazonczyk, Jr. and the Versatones proudly carry on a more than 40-year legacy to evolve and advance polka music and their heritage on the south side of Chicago. Blazonczyk's Versatones won the *Best Polka Entertainers* award at the 27th Annual Chicago Music Awards held in January 2008.

Singer-songwriter **Kelly Hogan** is known for her lovely, versatile voice covering styles varying from rock to traditional country to jazz pop. Hogan made a name for herself in the early 90s as the singer and guitarist for the Jody Grind band and has since released three solo albums.

Classical violinist **Rachel Barton-Pine** currently plays regularly with the Chicago Symphony, tours worldwide on her own and has an active recording career. Considered a child prodigy on the violin, Barton-Pine performed at many renowned venues throughout her child and teen years. She won the *Best Classical Entertainer* award at the 27th Annual Chicago Music Awards held in January 2008.

Grammy-nominated blues singer and guitarist **Lonnie Brooks** has played varying styles of blues since the late 1950s. The release of his award winning album, *Bayou Lightning*, on Alligator Records in 1979 vaulted Brooks into the national and international blues scene. Brooks is currently performing worldwide while working on songs for a new album.

Local music has had a strong presence in Chicago's airports since the early 1990s. In 1992, the Department of Aviation began showcasing local artists by featuring live performances in the terminals at O'Hare and Midway. The popular program is original to Chicago and has led to similar live music programs at other airports around the country.

In 1998, the Department of Aviation, along with key individuals in the Chicago music scene, enlisted help from local labels, music organizations, clubs, bands and individual musicians to bring local artists' recordings to O'Hare and Midway. Both the live and overhead music programs have been instrumental in exposing local music to a larger audience.

The Chicago Airport System's music program offers an experience in the airport that reflects the nonstop live programming that is available in Chicago every day of the year. The City of Chicago offers free musical programming including: the world's largest Blues Festival celebrating its 25th year; Jazz Fest celebrating its 30th year; 360 days of free performances annually at the Chicago Cultural Center; music and dancing with SummerDance; and the Grant Park Orchestra, the only free municipal orchestra in the world.

~ ~ ~ ~

About the Chicago Airport System

The Chicago Airport System is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Airport System.

About the Chicago Music Commission

The Chicago Music Commission is dedicated to nurturing and serving Chicago's music community, and promoting it to the world. More information about CMC can be found at www.chicago-music.org.

#



Photo 1 caption:
Artists Kelly Hogan, Rob Lisak, Scott Ligon, Lonnie Brooks, Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr., and Rachel Barton-Pine gather on stage to perform "Sweet Home Chicago" at the Celebrate Chicago Music event held Wednesday, April 23 at O'Hare International Airport. The event officially launched Terminal Tunes, a new overhead music program at O'Hare and Midway Airports developed through a collaboration between the Department of Aviation and the Chicago Music Commission.
Photo: Paul Natkin



Photo 2 caption:
Chicago blues legend Lonnie Brooks performs at the Celebrate Chicago Music event held Wednesday, April 23 at O'Hare International Airport.
Photo: Paul Natkin



Photo 3 caption:
The Celebrate Chicago Music event on Wednesday, April 23 at O'Hare International Airport featured a live music showcase to officially launch Terminal Tunes at the Chicago Airport System. Terminal Tunes was developed through a collaboration between the Department of Aviation (DOA) and the Chicago Music Commission (CMC).

(Pictured from left to right): Bruce Iglauer, President and Founder of Alligator Records and CMC member; Jill McGee, Deputy Commissioner of Marketing and Communications for DOA; Terri Gibson, Public Relations Representative for DOA; Grafe Smith, Deputy Commissioner of Information Technology and Telecommunications for DOA; and Paul Natkin, CMC.
Photo: Department of Aviation