



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2012

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**MAYOR EMANUEL PROPOSES NEW DINING AND MUSICAL
EXPERIENCES AT TASTE OF CHICAGO**

Renowned Chefs to Prepare Full Meals for \$40; Seating at Petrillo Music Shell Available for \$25

CHICAGO – Mayor Rahm Emanuel today introduced an ordinance that will allow patrons at the Taste of Chicago to buy tickets to three-course meals prepared by renowned Chicago chefs and seats at the Petrillo Music Shell during evening musical acts. Admission to the festival and lawn seating for musical performances and other entertainment stages will continue to be free.

For \$40 per patron, the “Celebrity Chef du Jour” will present a three-course dinner on Wednesday-Friday, July 11-13 and a three-course luncheon meal on Saturday and Sunday, July 14-15. Diners will be seated and served, while chefs will offer cooking demonstrations and a signature item.

The new experience has already attracted strong interest from noted Chicago chefs Carlos Gaytan (Mexiqué), Tony Mantuano (Spiaggia), Graham Elliot (Graham Elliot and Grahamwich), Stephanie Izard (Girl and The Goat) and Jimmy Bannos (Heaven on Seven and The Purple Pig).

The ordinance also allows a \$25 fee for tickets to one of the 3,000 seats located at the Petrillo Music Shell for evening concerts, while the lawn seating can accommodate 30,000 people.

“Taste of Chicago is a wonderful, free event that welcomes people from throughout Chicago and all over the world,” said Mayor Emanuel. “This is another opportunity for diners to taste the culinary creations from these talented chefs in a festival setting. Music fans will have the opportunity to secure seats to headlining musical acts for a nominal cost, and the revenues will help financially support this event without placing a burden on taxpayers.”



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City officials expect to raise \$375,000 from ticket sales. During the last three years, the Taste of Chicago has had an operating deficit of \$2.7 million dollars.

"We're especially thrilled to offer this brand new area to Taste where some of our star chefs will design a specially prepared three-course meal and mingle with the guests," said Michelle T. Boone, commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, producers of the festival. "We are also working to bring a great line-up of music to Taste while still maintaining it as a free admission festival."

Information on how tickets may be purchased for the dining area and the seating at the concert venue will be forthcoming. Taste will continue to offer free programming at the Dominick's Cooking Corner where chefs demonstrate a special recipe, the Bud Light Stage featuring local musical acts and the Family Village with entertainment and activities for children.

Concerts at Taste date back to the original festival held on Michigan Avenue, July 4, 1980 with many local talents performing. Over the years, as the event moved from a one-day to a multiple day festival and into Grant Park, the music line up grew and began to include nationally and internationally performers such as Sheryl Crow, Carlos Santana and Stevie Wonder.

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