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

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News Release

CHICAGO AIRPORTS SCORE TOP HONOR FOR LOCAL MUSIC PROGRAM

"Celebrate Chicago Music" at O'Hare and Midway receives ACI-NA award

CHICAGO – The Department of Aviation's multi-faceted music campaign, including its newly re-vamped overhead music program at O'Hare and Midway International Airports, received a first place award in this year's Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA) 2008 Excellence in Marketing and Communications Contest.

The campaign – Celebrate Chicago Music – included a live concert to kickoff the summer music season, launching "Terminal Tunes", the overhead music program, and providing local Chicago CD's now available for sale in select airport retail outlets. *Terminal Tunes* 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.

Chicago's music in the terminals was among 300 contest entries submitted by 62 airports and airport authorities that ACI-NA reviewed this year. The annual contest encompasses categories that recognize work in marketing and public relations, and provides airports the opportunity to be honored for the quality of their work.

"We are very pleased to receive this important recognition from ACI-NA," said Aviation Commissioner Richard L. Rodriguez. "*Celebrate Chicago Music* supports our efforts to market the City and its key initiatives to the millions of travelers passing through our airports on an annual basis."

Since 1992, the Department of Aviation has showcased local artists by featuring live performances in the terminals at O'Hare and Midway. The Chicago music scene is thriving again this year including : the world's largest Blues Festival celebrating its 25th year; Jazz Fest in its 30th year; 360 days of free performances at the Chicago Cultural Center; music and dancing with SummerDance; and the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra, the only free municipal orchestra in the world.

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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.

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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.

About ACI-NA

Airports Council International - North America represents local, regional and state governing bodies that own and operate commercial airports in the United States and Canada. ACI-NA member airports enplane more than 95 percent of the domestic and virtually all the international airline passenger and cargo traffic in North America. Nearly 400 aviation-related businesses are also members of the association, which is the largest of the five worldwide regions of Airports Council International.



Photo 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