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**For Immediate Release**

**Three of America's Most Beloved Female Vocalists  
Perform Together "Once in a lifetime"**

*Chicago Humanities Festival Benefit Evening, Oct. 3*

**CHICAGO (April 7, 2008)** – Three grandes dames of jazz, opera and Broadway share the stage for the first time on Friday, Oct. 3 at the Chicago Humanities Festival Benefit Evening, themed "Once in a lifetime."

Soprano Barbara Cook, who has enchanted audiences for decades, most recently at sold-out concerts with the New York Philharmonic, will perform at Symphony Center with Dianne Reeves, considered the pre-eminent jazz vocalist in the world today, and mezzo soprano Frederica von Stade, one of music's most beloved figures.

The Benefit Evening supports the Chicago Humanities Festival, the annual gathering of world-renowned authors, scholars, poets, policy-makers, artists and performers to celebrate the power of ideas in human culture. This year's festival, themed "Thinking Big," runs from Oct. 29-Nov. 9 at Chicago's many cultural institutions.

Each year, tens of thousands of engaged and enthusiastic participants discover the rich and rewarding role the humanities play in their daily lives. The Benefit Evening helps maintain the nominal \$5 ticket price for most festival programs, ensuring that all Chicagoans can participate in a stimulating dialogue with world renowned experts who continue to share big ideas and provocative thinking.

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## **CHF Benefit Evening//Add One**

The Benefit Evening, chaired by Carl and Mary Boyer of Glencoe, Ill., begins at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails at Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Guests will adjourn to Orchestra Hall for the "Once in a lifetime" concert at 8:30 p.m. Tickets for the dinner and concert begin at \$500. Tickets for the concert only begin at \$25. Reservations can be made by calling 312-494-9509, ext. 16. Reservations close September 19.

Considered one of the most important interpreters of American songwriting, Cook has illuminated the works of Leonard Bernstein, Jerome Kern, Richard Rodgers, Irving Berlin, Harold Arlen and Stephen Sondheim, to name a few. She won the Tony Award in 1958 for "The Music Man" and two Grammys for ensemble work in Broadway shows. Cook, recently inducted into the Broadway Hall of Fame, also has a successful career as a concert and cabaret artist, and received rave reviews in the New York Times for her 2007 Carnegie Hall birthday concert, "No One is Alone."

Reeves, a four-time Grammy Award-winner, is recognized for her virtuosity, improvisational prowess and unique jazz and R&B stylings. She has recorded and performed with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Daniel Barenboim, and Sir Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic. Reeves appeared and performed in George Clooney's Academy Award-nominated film "Good Night and Good Luck," for which she received her fourth Best Jazz Vocal Grammy in 2006. She was featured in a documentary on the life of Billy Strayhorn in 2007 and will release her first solo album in several years, "When You Know," in April 2008.

Known by friends and fans as "Flicka," von Stade debuted with the Metropolitan Opera and has sung nearly all of her great roles with that company. Her rich career has included more than 70 recordings, six Grammy nominations and performances with the world's leading opera companies, including the Lyric Opera of Chicago. In the 2007-2008 season, von Stade debuted at Theater an der Wien in a new production of Jake Heggie's "Dead Man Walking" and will perform in the world premiere of his new

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chamber opera, “Last Acts.” von Stade can be seen in concert and recital performances throughout the season and appears regularly on television in both operatic roles and celebrations of American song. In 1983, she was honored by President Ronald Reagan for her significant contribution to the arts.

All three women have performed at the Olympics, although not together. Cook gave a concert in the Sydney Opera House at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Arts Festival, while von Stade and Reeves appeared in the opening and closing ceremonies respectively at the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

The Chicago Humanities Festival is dedicated to creating opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy and explore the arts and humanities. It produces an annual fall festival and hosts public programs, performances and education initiatives throughout the year, which encourage the study and enjoyment of the arts and humanities. For more information about the Chicago Humanities Festival, visit [www.chfestival.org](http://www.chfestival.org).

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**Editors, please note:** Images of Barbara Cook, Dianne Reeves and Frederica von Stade are available on request.