



news release

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“Street Home Chicago” Concert First Ever Chicago Street Musicians Live At The House Of Blues

CHICAGO (Jan. 21, 2011) – Chicago Street Musicians (CSM), a non-profit organization that supports Chicago-area street performers, announced today that it has partnered with The House of Blues to host the first-ever “Street Home Chicago” concert on **Thursday, March 3rd at 9 p.m.** The concert will feature a handful of Chicago’s most talented subway and street performers playing both their original music and covers. Nicholas Barron, a former street performer and 2007 *New York Times* Emerging Artist Award winner will emcee the event. Mr. Barron, founder and director of the Coalition for the Advancement of Street Art (CASA), will also present on his organization's efforts to support street art.

Musicians that will be performing include:

Keithen Terrell and his band, The Keithen Terrell Banks Story *“Bringing the funk and blues”*
Born in Chicago, Keithen Terrell was raised in Schlater, Mississippi. His first instrument was the keyboard until a “longing in [his] soul” caused him to teach himself guitar. Keithen feels that the being a street performer allows him to practice and develop a stage presence in front of a crowd. He hopes that people realize that street and subway musicians are “artists who love to do what [they] do.”

The Real Connection *“And their soulful Motown harmonies”*

The Real Connection consists of Ron Christian, Norman Smith and Joseph Ellison. The trio has been playing together for nine years and can usually be found at the downtown Red Line stops. Ron, who sings and leads the group, grew up in a musical family, and began singing in his church choir. Vocalist Norman Smith enjoys seeing the reaction of passers-by to his singing and has been performing in the subway since 1993! Joseph, who plays guitar and sings with the trio, grew up in Youngstown, Ohio and has been playing in the subway for over 15 years.

Meisha Herron *“And her angelic voice”*

Meisha Herron is an incredible vocalist and guitar player. Meisha is a musician and singer/songwriter that has performed with notable blues artists Lovie Lee, Jimmy Burns and Shirley King, as well as with jazz vocalist, Maggie Brown, to name a few. She studied creative writing and took private guitar lessons at Columbia College. Her musical influences are varied, from Prince to Joan Armatrading to Nina Simone. She is currently working on new material for her upcoming album.

Chris James and his band, the Wall of Rhythm, “Featuring the magical, Hendrix-esque guitar stylings of Chris James”

Chris James is a talented guitarist who also plays violin and harmonica. He joined the U.S. Navy from 2006-2010, where he won a talent show for his guitar playing aboard the USS George Washington. He relocated to Chicago in June 2010 and currently is a music student. His band, Wall of Rhythm, also features two hand percussionists playing African drums.

Nicholas Barron, emcee for the event, is a singer-songwriter who has made his living through music for more than two decades. He has seven records out on his own label, and one record that was released on Candyrat records out of Milwaukee. In January of 2007, the Nicholas Barron Band was introduced as the launch artists for the New York Times Emerging Artists series at Joe’s Pub in NYC. He has opened for Al Green, BB King, Joan Armatrading, Johnny Cash, War, Michael Bolton, The Meters, Eleni Mendel, Tuck and Patti, Charlie Hunter, Medeski Martin and Wood, Karl Denson, and Buddy Guy. He has sung on numerous national and local TV spots, including Comcast, Coors, Miller Light, Cherry 7-Up, McDonalds, Applebees, Supercuts, and on and on. In August 2008, Nicholas began painting and is now a full-time painter as much as he is a musician.

CSM Director Gabriel Chapman is extremely excited about the event, the first of its kind to his knowledge. “I’ve often enjoyed listening to street performers on my way to and from work. This will be a great opportunity to savor their incredible music. Attendees will not be disappointed by the showmanship and soulful music these performers have to offer.”

The event will also include photo essays of the various performers, as well the participation of several additional non-profits advocating street art. For more information about “Street Home Chicago,” please visit: <http://chicagostreetmusicians.org>.

About Chicago Street Musicians

Chicago Street Musicians is a non-profit organization that seeks to celebrate Chicago-area street musicians by educating the public about their lives, showcasing their high level of musicianship and providing additional performance opportunities. Learn more about CSM at <http://chicagostreetmusicians.org>.