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# Percy Grainger Wind Band Festival

March 25 - 26, 2011

**Finally, a band festival celebrating  
nothing but Grainger!**

## Welcome, Grainger Fans

*The Percy Grainger Wind Band Festival will feature four specially-selected bands to perform in Chicago's Orchestra Hall*



*...in the folk-song there is to be found the complete history of a people, recorded by the race itself, through the heartoutbursts of its healthiest output. It is a history compiled with deeper feeling and more understanding than can be found among the dates and data of the greatest historian...*

*~Percy Aldridge Grainger*



Molly on the Shore

Grainger (arr. Johnson)

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### SPOTLIGHT ON

## Molly on the Shore

In a letter to *Frederick Fennell*, Grainger said that:

"in setting *Molly on the Shore*, I strove to imbue the accompanying parts that made up the harmonic texture with a melodic character not too unlike that of the underlying reel tune. Melody seems to me to provide music with initiative; whereas rhythm appears to me to exert an enslaving influence. For that reason I have tried to avoid regular rhythmic domination in my music - always excepting irregular rhythms, such as those of Gregorian Chant, which seem to me to make for freedom. Equally with melody, I prize discordant harmony, because of the emotional and compassionate sway it exerts."

# Festival Tour Itinerary

*All you need to know about your time in Chicago*

## Other Things To Do In Chicago

### This is a flexible itinerary.

Some optional activities for an additional cost include:

1. a *30-minute Boat Cruise* on *Lake Michigan* and the *Chicago River*;
2. a day at *Six Flags Amusement Park*;
3. attending a *Blue Man Group* show;
4. seeing a *Chicago Symphony Orchestra* performance;
5. attending “*Tony & Tina’s Wedding*” show with dinner buffet, music & dancing;
6. or live it up on a *Spirit Student DJ Dance Cruise* with snacks.



### Thursday, March 24, 2011

Arrival in Chicago, where you will meet your tour manager who will be with you each day during your tour

City tour of Historic Downtown and the Loop

Check-in to your downtown or suburban hotel

Dinner at Ed Debevec's feisty Fifties Diner (or similar)

Return to the hotel for overnight



### Friday, March 25, 2011

Breakfast at the hotel

Entrance to the *Field Museum of Natural History*

Lunch, on own

*Afternoon rehearsal & clinic*

Dinner at the Rainforest Café, or similar

Evening tour of *Willis (Sears) Tower*, including a visit to its

SkyDeck

Return to the

hotel for

overnight



### Saturday, March 26, 2011

Breakfast at the hotel

*Morning sound check in Orchestra Hall*

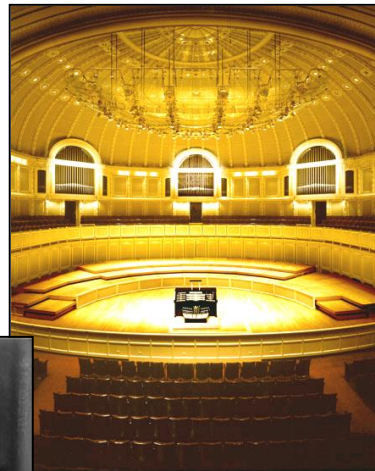
Visit the *Museum of Science and Industry* or *Art Institute of Chicago*

Lunch at the Museum, on own

*1:30pm - 4:30pm Festival Performances in Orchestra Hall*

Dinner at Bubba Gump's and time to spend at the Navy Pier's attractions

Return to the hotel for overnight



### Sunday, March 27, 2011

Breakfast at the hotel

Hotel check-out

Time for sightseeing and shopping, as time permits

Afternoon

departure

for home





# About Grainger

Percy Aldridge Grainger was born in Brighton, Australia, and is best remembered as a pianist of great skill and a composer of many memorable tunes for piano.

The arrangement and compositional skills shown in his settings of many folk songs collected by him, as well as his original works for wind ensembles, are still considered pinnacles of achievement.

## SPOTLIGHT ON

# Lincolnshire Posy

In his own program notes about *Lincolnshire Posy*, Grainger wrote:

“Why this cold-shouldering of the wind band by most composers? Is the wind band, with its varied assortments of reeds, so much richer than the reeds of the symphony orchestra, its complete saxophone family that is found nowhere else (to my ears the saxophone is the most expressive of all wind instruments - the one closest to the human voice. And surely all musical instruments should be rated according to their tonal closeness to man’s own voice!), its army of brass, both wide-bore and narrow-bore, not the equal of any medium ever conceived? As a vehicle of deeply emotional expression it seems to be unrivalled.”

Grainger composed literature for winds - especially with an emphasis on the saxophone. He wrote a series of “Hillsongs,” arranged many Scottish folk songs, and perhaps is best known for his wind band masterpiece, *Lincolnshire Posy* - which is based on a collection of folksongs Grainger collected in Lincolnshire, England.

Grainger would often compose his music purposely out of tune or time in order to recreate the effect of the inaccurate and imprecise folk songs.

10. HORKSTOW GRANGE  
(John Bowlin)

1. In Hork-stow Grange there, he'd an old mi-ser. You all do know him as  
I've heard say, he's him and his man that was nam'd John Bow-lin',  
Dad, they fell out one morn-ing, Pi-ty them what, see him out-fer,  
Pi-ty poor old, Steel-eye Span; John Bow-lin's, deeds they will  
be re-mem-ber'd, Bow-lin's deeds at Hork-stow Grange.

2. With a blackthorn stick old Steeleye struck him,  
Often had threaten'd him before;  
John Bowlin' nam'd round all in a passion,  
He knock'd old Steeleye into the floor.  
Ply them, etc.

3. Old Steeleye Span he was fill'd by John Bowlin',  
It happen'd to be on a market day;  
Old Steeleye swore with all his vengeance  
He would smite his life a-way.  
Ply them, etc.

*Click, read, click, read, click, read, click, read!*



## Links Of Interest

Percy Grainger Wikipedia Entry: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Percy\\_Grainger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Percy_Grainger)

Music Celebrations' YouTube Selections:

The Percy Grainger Society: [www.percygrainger.org.uk](http://www.percygrainger.org.uk)

The International Percy Grainger Society: [www.percygrainger.org](http://www.percygrainger.org)

Internet Movie Database: <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0334448>

Grainger Choral Works: [www.singers.com/composers/percygrainger.html](http://www.singers.com/composers/percygrainger.html)

# About The Festival

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Percy Grainger Wind Band Festival will feature four outstanding wind ensembles conducting 25 minutes of stand-alone performances of Percy Grainger literature in an afternoon matinee performance in Chicago's Historic Orchestra Hall. Each participating ensemble will also take part in a clinic with Col. Arnald D. Gabriel, a noted Grainger band expert.*

*All band selections are made through Music Celebrations, and every effort will be made to ensure that each ensemble's program will not overlap onto one another. Please note that we require each band have a minimum of 40 performers.*

*Ensembles will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve, rolling basis. Early applicants are given preference and priority.*



For nearly the first fourteen years of its history, the Chicago Orchestra performed at the Auditorium Theatre (completed in 1889). Orchestra Hall—the long-standing dream of Theodore Thomas—was designed by CSO trustee and Chicago architect Daniel H. Burnham and completed in 1904, at a cost of \$750,000. The dedicatory concert, led by Thomas, was held on December 14 of that year.

## Chicago's Orchestra Hall



Orchestra Hall has been host for a variety of performances and presentations since its dedication in 1904. During its first fifty years, Orchestra Hall was the regular home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as well as the Apollo Musical Club, the Mendelssohn Club of Chicago, the Chicago Business Men's Symphony, the Commonwealth Edison Orchestra, and the Marshall Field Choral Society. Mayors Richard M. Daley, Jr. and Harold Washington both were inaugurated during ceremonies held at Orchestra Hall. In addition, the Hall has hosted countless lectures (including Amelia Earhart, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Martin Luther King, Jr.); movies; commencement ceremonies; billiards tournaments, religious services; suffrage and other political rallies; and visiting orchestras, choruses, and dance companies from all over the world.

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