

McCormick Museum to Host Ravinia's Lincoln Trio Tour

WHEATON, IL, Jan. 9, 2009 — As part of its Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial celebration, the Robert R. McCormick Museum will host a free concert on Sunday, Feb. 15, featuring piano compositions inspired by America's 16th president. The museum, part of the McCormick Foundation and located at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, is among the first stops on Ravinia Festival's 2009 whistle-stop concert tour through Lincoln's home state.

The concert will feature the aptly-named Lincoln Trio, an ensemble from the acclaimed Music Institute of Chicago. Its performance will include three newly composed works for piano trio commissioned through Ravinia's first composition competition. The works include spoken word text.

"We are honored to be a venue for this special tribute to Abraham Lincoln," said Diane Gutenkauf, director of the McCormick Museum. "The museum was originally the home of Joseph Medill, Robert McCormick's grandfather. Medill, founder and editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, supported Lincoln's presidential candidacy and corresponded with him frequently. We at Cantigny feel a strong Lincoln connection and are thrilled to celebrate the Lincoln Bicentennial with this event."

The McCormick Foundation is a sponsor of Ravinia's Illinois tour, scheduled to visit towns associated with Lincoln's life. The Feb. 13 to April 24 tour features performances at schools, concert halls, senior centers and celebrated historical sites such as Cantigny.

The Lincoln Trio concert is free, but seating in the McCormick Museum's Freedom Hall is very limited. Those interested in attending are invited to enter a ticket lottery (limit 2) by calling 630 260 8162 between 8 am and 4 pm. The museum will draw 35 names on Feb. 2 and contact recipients by Feb. 6.

The McCormick Museum will commemorate the Lincoln bicentennial with additional events in 2009, including a lecture series and a vintage baseball game played by rules in place during Civil War times. For a schedule of events, visit Cantigny.org.

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About the McCormick Foundation

The McCormick Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to strengthening our free, democratic society by investing in children, communities and country. Through its five grantmaking programs, Cantigny Park and Golf, and three world-class museums, the Foundation helps build a more active and engaged citizenry. It was established as a charitable trust in 1955, upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. The McCormick Foundation is one of the

nation's largest charities, with \$1.2 billion in assets. For more information, please visit www.McCormickFoundation.org.

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