



The Soul of Illinois

For Immediate Release

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NIGHTTIME IS THE RIGHT TIME IN CHICAGO

Music, dancing and more await those who come alive after dark

CHICAGO, IL (April, 2006) – For the traveler who craves after-hours fun, Chicago is the place to be. From enjoying the sounds of live bands to joining the highly regarded stepper set, the city provides a wide range of things to enjoy when the sun goes down.

Deemed the “blues capital of the world,” Chicago has an impressive selection of down-home blues clubs which feature artists from the legendary to the up-and-coming. **Eddy Clearwater’s B.L.U.E.S.** - namesake of the regarded musician - serves up good blues complemented by good food. The renowned **Checkerboard Lounge** ushers in a fresh era of blues at its new location in Hyde Park, while **Kingston Mines** is Chicago’s oldest and largest “real blues” club. **Buddy Guy’s Legends** - named after the owner and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee himself - features live music nightly from the best local and national blues bands, and the famed **House of Blues** provides a pleasant mix of blues, pop, alternative and more in an environment celebrating African American cultural contributions of blues music and folk art.

Fans of international music and art will enjoy the **HotHouse**, located outside of the Loop, Chicago’s central business district. For a taste of jazz, savor the flavor at **Green Mill**, long hailed by many as Chicago’s best jazz club. Other premier jazz venues include **Andy’s Jazz Club**, featuring mainstream, bebop and swing jazz combos in a sophisticated saloon-like atmosphere, and **Jazz Showcase**, known worldwide for its traditional flair since 1947.

For a faster tempo, there are plenty of dance clubs in Chicago and its suburbs. Several venues dedicate select nights to the stepper sets, providing a fun mix of places for those who enjoy this addictive dance floor pastime. A South Side legend, the **50-Yard Line** is home to some of the best steppers in the country, as well as a hip sports bar and lounge. For hip-hop and R&B and even a little comedy, the **Crocodile Lounge** is

the place to see and be seen. And there is something for the younger crowd at the **Funky Buddha Lounge**, a combination of a lounge and trendy upscale dance club.

For a mellow twist to the night, **Green Dolphin Street** has live jazz music, a dining room and outdoor garden café, and a humidor, while the acclaimed **Pops for Champagne** features live jazz music and, as the name implies, a world-class selection of champagnes.

Several locations throughout the city feature funk, reggae, rock and gospel as well.

For those looking to laugh the night away, the exciting atmosphere at **Jokes and Notes** - Chicago's newest comedy club - is sure to satisfy. The state-of-the art venue, located in the heart of Chicago's historic Bronzeville community, features live jazz, open mic and spoken word events throughout the week and stand-up comedy on weekends.

When stepping outside of Chicago, travelers can still find a variety of things to do at night. In Aurora, **Walter Payton's Roundhouse Complex** is a multi-faceted entertainment facility, featuring everything from a night club to a comedy club and piano bar. And **Big Cities Lounge** is a must-see while in Rockford, is also known as "Rockford's home for jazz & blues." If that's not enough, travelers can turn it up with some high-stakes nighttime thrills at a variety of casinos throughout the state. The **Grand Victoria Casino** in Elgin; **Empress Casino** in Joliet; **Harrah's Joliet Casino & Hotel** and **Hollywood Casino** in Aurora are all-time favorites. The action continues in Western Illinois at the **Par-a-Dice Hotel and Casino** riverboat in East Peoria, on the Illinois River; in Southwest Illinois aboard the **Casino Queen** in East St. Louis and at the **Argosy Casino** in Alton.

Whether it's a toe-tapping time, high-energy fun, some good laughs or a relaxed night of the blues, there is something in Chicago - and throughout Illinois - to make the nighttime the right time for everyone.

For more information about Illinois destinations and attractions, visit www.soufulillinois.com or call **1-800-2CONNECT**.