

The Times-Picayune

Preservation Hall Jazz Band to appear on Letterman show



by Keith Spera, The Times-Picayune
Thursday, July 07, 2011

The Preservation Hall Jazz Band and bluegrass bandleader Del McCoury are scheduled to appear together on “Late Night with David Letterman” on July 19. The bands will perform at New York’s City Winery the following night.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band Matthew Hinton / The Times-Picayune Ben Jaffe of the Preservation Hall Jazz Band performs on the Gentilly Stage in New Orleans during Jazz Fest 2010.

The relationship between McCoury’s band and Preservation Hall has proved to be a fruitful one. It grew out of Preservation Hall creative director and tuba player Ben Jaffe’s desire to expand the band’s reach and explore common ground with other forms of roots music. Earlier this year, Preservation Hall released a joint album with McCoury called “American Legacies.”

On Mardi Gras, McCoury even paraded through the streets of the French Quarter with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band.

Other recent outings by Preservation Hall have found the band performing at the Grand Ole Opry – rarely, if ever, has a tuba ever appeared on the most hallowed stage of country music – and throughout the massive Bonnaroo Music Festival in June in Tennessee. One of those Bonnaroo gigs involved sitting in with My Morning Jacket, the much-acclaimed rock band with whom Pres Hall has previously toured and collaborated with at the Voodoo Experience and Jazz Fest.

The relationship between Jaffe and company and My Morning Jacket is the subject of “Louisiana Fairytale,” a new documentary by photographer Danny Clinch. “Louisiana Fairytale” will be screened at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art on July 23 and during the New Orleans Film Festival in October.