

For Immediate Release

**BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA, PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND
ANNOUNCE COLLABORATIVE TOUR**

**LEGENDS OF GOSPEL, JAZZ HIT THE ROAD AFTER RECORDING TOGETHER
ON THE BLIND BOYS' LATEST CD *DOWN IN NEW ORLEANS***

**"DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE"
KICKS OFF SEPTEMBER 16th**

The Blind Boys of Alabama and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band continue to bring attention to the rich musical heritage of New Orleans by announcing "Down By The Riverside," a co-billed tour, starting Sept. 16, 2008 through March of 2009. These two historic institutions join together to share with audiences the jubilation and richness of New Orleans as the city continues to rebuild and revitalize. In January, the Blind Boys released *Down In New Orleans*, their first album ever recorded in the Big Easy. The album continues to receive overwhelming critical acclaim, and features guest performances by the legendary Allen Toussaint, local kingpins the Hot 8 Brass Band, and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band. In April the Blind Boys and Preservation Hall performed together, along with special guests Dr. John, Susan Tedeschi, and others, at a sold-out concert at Tipitinas in New Orleans. The show was recorded for a DVD due for release in early 2009.

Released on January 29th 2008, *Down In New Orleans* represented the Blind Boys desire to draw hope to the still storm-ravaged city. The *Washington Post* said "Inspired and relevant, (*Down In New Orleans*) borders on the miraculous." *USA Today* praised the "rousing musical tribute to New Orleans," while *Rolling Stone* called it "A super weapon of roots-music uplift" and the *Toronto Sun* gasped, "inspirational."

About the Blind Boys:

The Blind Boys of Alabama thrill and inspire audiences the world over. Formed in 1939, The Blind Boys still continue to create critically acclaimed recordings and reach new career heights even today. In recent years the group has won FOUR consecutive Grammy Awards, were featured on "60 Minutes," "Regis & Kelly," "The Tonight Show" and the "Late Show with David Letterman", performed on the 2005 Grammy Awards telecast, and appeared in the 2003 movie "The Fighting Temptations" alongside Beyonce and Cuba Gooding Jr. They sang a Phil Collins tune in Disney's "Brother Bear" animated film, and were also the inspiration for the Steven Bochco TV series "Blind Justice." The Blind Boys have also been inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame and awarded the NEA's Heritage Fellowship for Lifetime Achievement, as well as many other prestigious honors, earning them the true distinction of "living gospel legends."

About the Preservation Hall:

Dedicated to preserving and perpetuating New Orleans Jazz, the world renowned, Preservation Hall Jazz Band derives its name from the venerable music venue founded in 1961 by Allan and Sandra Jaffe. Located in the heart of the French Quarter, Preservation Hall presents New Orleans Jazz on a nightly basis. Post Katrina, the band's mission became increasingly important as a result of the severe physical and cultural loss due to the flooding of New Orleans. The son of the founders and Creative Director, Ben Jaffe, co founded The New Orleans Musicians Hurricane Relief which continues to operate today as Sweet Home New Orleans: Renew Our Music. The band's response to the destruction was the release of "Made In New Orleans: The Hurricane Sessions" a scrapbook of Preservation Hall memorabilia from the Preservation Hall archives, new recordings and tracks recovered from the flooded Seasaint Studios as well as a DVD of historic Preservation Hall performances. The band was awarded the *2006 National Medal of Arts* by the National Endowment for the Arts, the highest level of recognition by the Federal Government. Today, the band is comprised of musicians all born and raised in New Orleans. Many have performed together for over 40 years. The band tours worldwide carrying on the musical legacy and varied traditions of New Orleans.

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For further information, please logon to either

www.blindboys.com

or

www.preservationhall.com

or

www.timelifeentertainment.com

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THE DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE TOUR:

9/16-21	Fort Collins, CO	Lincoln Center
9/23	New York, NY	B.B. Kings Blues Club
9/26	Schenectady, NY	Proctor's Theatre
9/27	Utica, NY	Munson- Williams-Proctor Arts Institute
9/28	Washington, DC	John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
9/30	Buies Creek, NC	Campbell University – Turner Auditorium
10/1	Knoxville, TN	Tennessee Theatre
10/7	Urbana, IL	College of DuPage- Krannert Center
10/10	Glen Ellyn, IL	College of DuPage- Krannert Arts Center
10/12	Minneapolis, MN	Orchestra Hall

10/16	Gainesville, FL	University of Florida – Phillips Center for The Performing Arts
10/18	Birmingham, AL	University of Alabama – Alys Stephens Center
10/20	Opelika, AL	Opelika Center for the Performing Arts
10/21	Spindale, NC	Isothermal Community College – Foundation Performing Arts Center
11/9	Cerritos, CA	Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts
11/21	Dallas, TX	McFarlin Memorial Auditorium
11/22	San Antonio, TX	Majestic Theater
11/23	Austin, TX	The Long Center
3/26	Lebanon, NH	Lebanon Opera House
3/27	Boston, MA	Symphony Hall
3/28	Ithaca, NY	State Theatre