



**THE PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND  
OF NEW ORLEANS PRESENTS:  
“A CREOLE CHRISTMAS”**

Join the [Preservation Hall Jazz Band](#) as they celebrate the Winter Holidays with their wildly popular Creole Christmas tour. An annual must-see production for New Orleans families since 2005, 2009 marks the first year that this venerable group has taken their infectious holiday spirit on the road. Seasonal favorites to be performed will include the likes of “Blue Christmas,” “Swinging In A Winter Wonderland,” “Santa Claus Is Coming To Town,” and “The Dreidel Song.” Treat your family to a New Orleans holiday tradition, a seasonal celebration they’ll never forget.

Since opening its doors to the public in 1961, it has been the mission of [Preservation Hall](#) to showcase the national treasures of traditional New Orleans jazz music. Forty-eight years later, the [Preservation Hall Jazz Band](#) still represents the best opportunity for music fans the world over to experience the planet’s happiest music. Boasting a direct lineage from the earliest incarnations of New Orleans jazz, the current roster of the [Preservation Hall Jazz Band](#) features some of the greatest and most historic musicians touring the globe today. These unforgettable, multi-generational players proudly carry on the traditions passed forward from the most prolific jazz heritage on earth.

***The Preservation Hall Jazz Band...***

*-Has performed for every United States President since the Kennedy Administration.*

*-Was awarded the [2006 National Medal of Arts](#) by the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).*

*-Plays more than [100 dates worldwide](#) every year.*

*-Has appeared at every [New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival](#) since its founding in 1971.*

*-Proudly appears on [The Blind Boys Of Alabama’s](#) Grammy-winning 2008 album, [“Down In New Orleans.”](#)*

**The Preservation Hall Jazz Band is:**

- **[Ben Jaffe/Creative Director & Tuba](#):** As son of co-founders Allan and Sandra Jaffe, Ben has lived his whole life with the rhythm of the French Quarter pulsing through his veins. Raised in the company of New Orleans’ greatest musicians, Ben returned from his collegiate education at Oberlin College in Ohio to play with the group and assume his father’s duties as Director of Preservation Hall. Today he serves as Creative Director for both PHJB and the Hall itself, where he has spearheaded such programs as the New Orleans Musicians Hurricane Relief Fund.

- **Mark Braud/Trumpet and Vocals:** As nephew to two former PHJB leaders, Wendell and John Brunious, Jr., Mark is proud to further his family's musical legacy in the company of so many historic players. Beginning his career playing with the Olympia Kids, a young players' offshoot of the famous Olympia Brass Band, Mark has gone on to record, tour, and play with New Orleans legends of both traditional jazz and R&B, including Eddie Bo, Henry Butler, Harry Connick Jr., and Dr. Michael White.
- **Charlie Gabriel/Clarinet, Saxophone and Vocals:** The musical heritage of Charlie Gabriel can be traced back as far back as the 1850s. Great-grandson of New Orleans bass player Narcesse Gabriel, grandson of New Orleans cornet player Martin Joseph, and son of New Orleans drummer and clarinetist Martin Manuel Gabriel, Charlie is truly a living legend. At seventy-six years old, the extensive list of musicians with whom he's played includes well-known PHJB alumni Kid Howard, Kid Sheik, Jim Robinson, and George Lewis.
- **Clint Maedgen/Reeds and Vocals:** Though Clint is best known as leader of multi-media alt.cabaret group The New Orleans Bingo! Show, he has been in love with the sound of traditional New Orleans jazz since he was a small child. After studying with clarinet innovator Alvin Baptiste at Southern University in Lafayette, Clint returned to New Orleans' French Quarter where he cemented his reputation as an artist and collaborator through an ongoing series of eclectic and experimental musical ensembles. As a full-time member of the PHJB, he brings an infectious passion to both his playing and singing.
- **Joe Lastie, Jr./Drums:** Born and raised in the Lower Ninth Ward, Joe comes from a long line of family members equally dedicated to music and the church. Having played his first job with a rhythm section backing the Desire Community Choir, he would go on to study jazz with Willie Metcalf at the Dryer Street YMCA with classmates Wynton and Branford Marsalis. After a brief move with his family to Queens, New York, Joe returned to New Orleans where he was invited to substitute on drums at Preservation Hall in 1989. He's been a regular with the band ever since.
- **Frank Demond/Trombone:** Frank Demond has been playing with PHJB for over forty years. By the time he was first asked to sit in with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band on a visit to New Orleans in 1965, Frank had already played with a host of New Orleans greats in his hometown of Los Angeles: Johnny St. Cyr, banjo master who'd played with both Louis Armstrong and King Oliver; Alton Purnell, the pianist who had been born in the building that would become Preservation Hall; George Lewis, legendary clarinetist and eventual Preservation Hall fixture. After sitting in on that fateful visit, Frank relocated to the city of his musical inspiration and has been a permanent member of the Preservation Hall Jazz Band ever since.
- **Walter Payton/Bass and Vocals:** Born and raised in New Orleans' Uptown neighborhoods, Walter's first brushes with Preservation Hall came in the early sixties when Allan Jaffe would lend him his sousaphone for gigs with the Eureka, Apollo, and Olympia Brass Bands. After receiving advanced instruction from Robert Rohe at Xavier College, Walter went on to perform on several hit records, including Lee Dorsey's "Working in a Coal Mine" and Aaron Neville's "Tell It Like It Is." Walter Payton has also been a teacher in the New Orleans public school system for twenty-five years, where he had the opportunity to instruct a young Ben Jaffe in the ways of the bass.
- **Rickie Monie/Piano:** Born and raised in New Orleans' Ninth Ward to jazz loving church musicians, Rickie was inundated at an early age with the recordings of such great jazz and gospel pianists as Art Tatum, Oscar Peterson, and Teddy Wilson. After majoring in woodwind instruments at Dillard University, Rickie turned back to the piano and picked up work in every style of music. In 1982, Monie got his first call from Preservation Hall, to substitute for the legendary resident pianist Sweet Emma Barret after she suffered a stroke. To the delight of audiences around the world, he's stayed onboard ever since.

***“Preservation Hall, now that’s where you’ll find all the greats.” ~Louis Armstrong***

***“Miraculous” – NPR***

***“Preservation Hall keeps it’s jazz hot.” – Los Angeles Times***

***“Stunning” – Jazziz***

***“New Orleans’ Preservation Hall Jazz Band keeps the joyousness alive.”***

***– Tucson Weekly***

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