



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 10, 2008

Contact: Anna Baker
(402) 345-5401

NEW ORLEANS' OWN HOT 8 BRASS BAND TO BRING UNIQUE MUSIC AND CULTURE TO 2008 FESTIVAL

Thanks to a collaboration between the Omaha Summer Arts Festival, the Holland Performing Arts Center and Film Streams, New Orleans' own Hot 8 Brass Band will *laissez les bon temps roulé* in Omaha during Festival weekend, June 27-29. The group is scheduled to lead two second line parades, perform at the Holland Center's Cox Music and Movies series, participate in a Q & A session following a showing of a segment of Spike Lee's *When the Levees Broke* at Film Streams and headline a concert on the Festival's Luigi Waites World Music Pavilion Stage.

The Hot 8 Brass Band has epitomized New Orleans street music for over a decade and has developed a reputation as one of the premiere "Second Line" bands. Second Line parades are the descendants of the city's famous jazz funerals and, apart from a casket, mourners and a cemetery visit; they carry many of the same traditions with them as they march down the streets.

Second Lines trace their roots back to the 19th century and the fraternal societies and neighborhood organizations that collectively provided insurance and burial services to members, especially among the African American community. The "first line" of a funeral consisted of the people who were an integral part of the ceremony, such as the members of the club or family and friends of the deceased.

The "second line" originally referred to people who were attracted to the music. Led by a "Grand Marshal," the band and mourners would move to the burial site, with the band playing a

(More)

dirge to signal the struggles, the hardships, the ups and downs of life. On the way back, the music became more joyful. Relatives, friends and acquaintances would become the “second line” and dance with wild abandon. The “second line,” usually sporting umbrellas and handkerchiefs, became traditional at these “jazz funerals.”

On Friday evening, from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m., Hot 8 will teach participants traditional Second Line moves and steps and then lead a New Orleans-style procession from the Holland Performing Arts Center through the Festival grounds and back, prior to their one-hour performance at the Holland Center’s Cox Music and Movies series. Participation in the parade is free, but will be limited to the first 150 registrants. To register, or for more information, visit **www.cox.com/omaha/marchtothemovies.asp**.

On Saturday morning at 10 a.m., Hot 8 will lead a Second Line parade from the Holland Center through the Festival grounds to officially open the Children’s Fair which is featuring an “Arti-Gras” theme. The parade and Children’s Fair décor will infuse the festival with the revelry and spirit of Mardi Gras. Those interested in participating in the parade are asked to contact Michelle Dunn at 345-5401 or safintern@vgagroup.com.

At 2 p.m. Saturday, a showing of a segment of Spike Lee’s *When the Levees Broke* will be presented at Film Streams, 1340 Webster Street, followed by a Q & A session with members of the band who appeared in the movie. Later in the evening, at 9 p.m., Hot 8 will headline what is sure to be a standing-room only FREE concert on the Luigi Waites World Music Pavilion Stage at 13th and Farnam Streets.

The members of the Hot 8 Brass Band were born and raised in New Orleans and many began playing together in high school. What makes Hot 8 so special are the sounds they coax from their well-loved, well-worn horns. They perform annually at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, as well as world music and jazz festivals across the US and Europe. As an extension to

(More)

Hot 8 in Omaha
Page three

their love of music, The Hot 8 has been part of an important relief project following hurricane Katrina. SAVE OUR BRASS! is a local grass-roots project that has brought music and instruments to shelters, temporary trailer parks and communities across the Gulf Coast.

For more information about the Omaha Summer Arts Festival presented by First National Bank or the Hot 8 in Omaha, please visit **www.SummerArts.org**.

###