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**STANTON DAVIS, JR.
ADDED TO NEW ORLEANS CELEBRATION
AT STEPPIN' OUT FOR DIMOCK 19
SAT, NOV 4 FUNDRAISER**

Boston, MA--**The Henri Smith-Nat Simpkins Band** has just announced that they will feature the soulful sounds of trumpeter/flugelhornist **Stanton Davis, Jr.** alongside previously announced special guest saxophonist **Charles Neville** at this year's Steppin' Out For Dimock 19, taking place Saturday, November 4 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. This year's renowned fundraiser will feature a celebration of New Orleans' music and heritage with 18 stellar bands showcased in nine different ballrooms which are converted into "clubs" from 8 pm to 2 am. New Orleans cuisine will also be offered to party-goers.

Davis, who is known to the Boston area from his work here in the '70s was located for the date at Steppin' Out by singer Henri Smith. Davis and Smith were classmates in grammar school in New Orleans, years ago.

New Orleans-born jazz, soul, R&B and Latin trumpeter/flugelhornist **Stanton Davis, Jr.** graduated from the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music in 1973 with a degree in Composition and Performance but had already been steeped in the fluid sounds of jazz, blues, soul and R&B from his early life in the Crescent City. In the early '70s Davis was well known for his Boston-based, highly praised electric jazz/funk fusion group, *Ghetto Mysticism* which recorded the album *Brighter Days* and toured throughout New England and New York.

Since that time, Davis has performed, toured, and/or recorded with a plethora of legendary jazz groups such as The Mercer Ellington Orchestra, The Lionel Hampton Orchestra, George Russell's Living Time Orchestra, Mongo Santa Maria's Orchestra, Mario Bauza & His Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra, Lester Bowie's Brass Fantasy and bassist Charlie Haden's group. Davis has also appeared as a soloist on David Sanborn's *Night Music* on NBC TV and performed in concerts with jazz stars such as David Sanborn, George Gruntz, Jim Pepper, Bob Stewart, David Murray, Richard Abrams, Sam Rivers, Gil Evans, Webster Lewis, Jaki Byard, and Max Roach.

As a free-lance musician, Davis has been a key player in the orchestra pit for shows such as *The Diana Ross' TV Special*, and Broadway and touring shows such as *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Black and Blue*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Play On*, *Dinah Was* and *Bring In 'da Noise, Bring In 'da Funk* as well as The Apollo Theatre's *Harlem Song* in New York.

Television documentaries such as PBS' *An American Dream* and *The Virgin Island Adventure* were graced with Davis' soulful trumpet sounds and Davis also appeared in George Russell's *Living Time* on TV in Stockholm and on *MZIZI ROOTS*, on WBZ-TV in Boston.

In addition, Davis has been heard in concerts and festivals with R&B and pop artists as Jon Lucien, Al Cooper, The Four Tops, Lou Rawls, David Ruffin, The Dells, Gladys Knight, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye and Tavares. Davis also performed in The Festival of Joy Tour for DIW Records in Tokyo, Japan and at the Berlin Jazz Festival with George Russell.

As a composer, Davis's 1989 album, *Manhattan Melody* was selected as "Pick Album" by Lufthansa Airlines. Davis's composition credits also include all the tracks on the Ghetto Mysticism recording *Brighter Days*, the music for *Third World* on WCVB-TV in Boston, the soundtrack for a multimedia show called *Where's Boston?* and the soundtrack for *Union Station*.

Davis also received a Creative Artist Fellowship for composition from the Massachusetts Foundation for The Arts and Humanities and a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship for Jazz Composition. Davis is included in *Who's Who in Entertainment*.

Vocalist **Henri Smith** [who escaped Hurricane Katrina and relocated to the Boston area] has appeared with and/or recorded with a Who's Who of New Orleans stars including Kermit Ruffins, Donald Harrison, Wendell Brunious, Bill Summers, "Tuba Fats" Lacen James Andrews, Jason Marsalis, Willie T, Cyril Neville and Charles Neville. His CD *New Orleans Friends and Flavours* was #11 on the *Jazzweek* radio charts.

Saxophonist **Nat Simpkins** has a long recording and performing career with five CDs as bandleader on Bluejay and Muse Records. He has performed and/or recorded with Buddy Tate, Houston Person, Eddie Cleanhead Vinson, Eddie Lockjaw Davis, Arnett Cobb, Earle Warren, Ray Bryant, George Duvier, Major Holley, Papa Jo Jones, Grady Tate, Jason Marsalis, Branford Marsalis, Henri Smith, Cecil Brooks III and Bobby Hebb. His last studio recording *Crescent City* placed #1 on jazz radio charts and #35 of all jazz records released in 2001.

Saxophonist and vocalist **Charles Neville** of New Orleans' legendary Neville Brothers Band appears frequently with the Smith-Simpkins band as special guest. He has toured the world many times with the Neville Brothers, The Meters, Fats Domino, Ray Charles, Jimmy Reed, Huey "Piano" Smith and Ernie K-Doe and was recently heard with his brother Aaron at his concert at Berklee Performance Center.

Recently The Henri Smith-Nat Simpkins Band performed on CBS 4 Boston as part of the Katrina remembrance and on *Good Morning America* as part of the Mardi Gras coverage. Henri has also been the host of the Jazz Tent at New Orleans' Jazzfest for over 14 years. He and Nat have appeared there as well as at the Satchfest with Kermit Ruffins, Donald Harrison, and the Andrews Family Band. They have also performed at many major venues including Tipitina's, the House of Blues, The World Trade Center, The Lester Young Tribute Concert in New York City and Cecil's Jazz Club in New Jersey, where they just recorded a new live CD. This exciting band is ready to share their talents and positive energy with the world!

Steppin' Out For Dimock 19 will also feature R&B/gospel vocal stars **Kenny Lattimore & Chanté Moore**, legendary New Orleans' pianist/vocalist **Dr. John**, Latin timbales king **Tito Puente Jr.** and his big band, jazz trombonist **Delfeayo Marsalis** and his band, rhythm and blues vocalist **Cuba Gooding, Sr. & The Main Ingredient** and R&B songwriter, producer and vocalist **Dwele**. Heavy New Orleans brass funk titans **Rebirth Brass Band**, the diva of jazz and blues **Lavay Smith & The Red Hot Skillet Lickers**, singer/songwriter **Digney Fignus** and his **Cajun Band**, jazz tenor saxophonist **Paulo Danay** and his **Jazz Quartet**, tuba player **Kendrick Oliver** and his gospel-tinged big band **New Life Orchestra** and jazz and gospel/R&B pianist **George Russell Jr.** and his band featuring vocalist **Wannetta Jackson** are some of the other artists appearing this year.

Steppin' Out is Boston's liveliest and most highly anticipated annual gala fundraising event. Staged to mimic Boston's legendary and historic jazz clubs of the '30s through today, this one-of-a-kind charity music-fest-party attracts more than 3,000 of the city's glitterati for an evening of music, dancing, food, cocktails, friends and fun. Steppin' Out will transport this year's partiers to a world of New Orleans music and masked balls; the diverse group of party goers' snappy suits and fancy dress have given Steppin' Out its reputation for great people-watching. Partiers will be dazzled by the array of nationally-recognized jazz headliners who set toes a-tapping and lift audience members out of their seats to join the crowd dancing in the aisles!

Tickets are on sale now and range from \$100 [seniors] to \$350 [star patron tickets]. Tickets can be purchased directly from Dimock Community Health Center located at 55 Dimock Street, Roxbury and can also be bought at Allen's Formalwear [594 Blue Hill Avenue, Dorchester] as well as at A Nubian Notion [41 Warren Street, Roxbury]. For full information, go to: www.steppinoutgala.org or call: 617-442-8800 x1006.

As always, proceeds from this year's 19th annual Steppin' Out Gala will go to support Dimock Community Health Center's many health and human services programs. Established in 1862 as the New England Hospital for Women and Children, Dimock has been an enduring presence in the Roxbury community for 144 years. Since it became a Community Health Center in 1969, Dimock has become a national model for delivering high quality health care and innovative "wrap-around" programming, and has helped improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of individuals and families throughout Roxbury, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain and Mattapan.