



newport rhode island

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**THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF FUNK TO HIT NEWPORT THIS SUMMER!
THE METERS BRING NEW ORLEANS SPICE & GUMBO TO
DUNKIN' DONUTS NEWPORT FOLK FESTIVAL '06**

Newport, RI-- Get ready for Mardi Gras in Newport! The founding fathers of funk, New Orleans' Meters are heading to Aquidneck Island and will spice up the sounds at this year's Dunkin' Donuts Newport Folk Festival on the Dunkin' Donuts Stage, Sunday, August 6.

"This electrifying New Orleans-based band will help us celebrate the amazing legacy and musical history of the great "Crescent City" at this year's festival on our Sunday program," said George Wein, Executive Producer of the festival. "It is important that we recognize the importance of our fellow artists from New Orleans as they strive to renew their city and culture" continued Wein.

In their 25-year history, The Meters have grooved their way around the globe. They have toured with such talents as The Rolling Stones, and have been the rhythm section for such diverse artists as Dr. John, Paul McCartney, Robert Palmer and Patti Labelle.

Considered by many to be the founding fathers of funk, The Meters created a unique sound that lasted through the sixties and seventies and was reborn in the late eighties. Their trademark sound blends funk, blues, and dance grooves with a New Orleans vibe.

The history of this native New Orleans band dates back to 1967, when keyboardist and vocalist **Art Neville** recruited bassist **George Porter, Jr.**, drummer **Joseph (Zigaboo) Modeliste** and guitarist **Leo Nocentelli** to form The Meters. When Neville formed the band, he had already been a prominent member of the New Orleans music community for 15 years. He was still in high school when, leading The Hawkettes, he cut the 1954 hit single "Mardi Gras Mambo", which is still pressed every year at Carnival time.

After working with Allen Toussaint on some Lee Dorsey tracks, The Meters were told to lay down some tracks of their own. Between 1967 and 1969, they recorded four consecutive hit singles: "Sophisticated Cissy," "Cissy Strut," "Ease Back," and "Look a Py Py," which all reached the Top 10 on the R&B charts. Neville created a band that would rule the New Orleans music community for decades to come.

From 1971 to 1978 The Meters recorded five albums on the Warner/Reprise label. Cyril Neville, Art Neville's brother, joined the band in 1975 as a percussionist and vocalist for three of those albums, also recording the critically acclaimed The Wild Tchoupitoulas, which was recorded with Neville's uncle, Big Chief Jolly, the most celebrated member of the Mardi Gras Indians. Simultaneously, the band was widely heard playing on albums by Dr. John ,Robert Palmer, King Biscuit Boy ,Lee Dorsey ,Allen Toussaint and a Mardi Gras single released by Paul McCartney and Wings.

In 1975, the Meters performed at a party for Paul and Linda McCartney aboard the Queen Mary in California. Shortly thereafter, The Rolling Stones requested that The Meters join them as an opening act on their (1975) American Tour and (1976) European tours-over 75 dates were played between both tours.

After twelve years and ten studio albums, The Meters disbanded in 1979 due to business problems. The Meters have maintained an avid following of fans and other artists, and their music has been sampled by musicians around the world, including rap artists

Heavy D, LL Cool J and Queen Latifah. The Red Hot Chili Peppers pay homage to them in one of their hit songs, and bands such as the Grateful Dead, KVHW, Steve Kimock Band, Widespread Panic, Rebirth Brass Band, Galactic and String Cheese Incident often played their music.

Musically, the next decade took the band members in different directions. Art Neville and Cyril Neville pioneered the internationally successful Neville Brothers, while Zigaboo Modeliste drummed for Keith Richards and Ron Wood on the New Barbarians Tour. George Porter, Jr. founded his first band, Joy Ride and in 1990 recorded his first solo CD, *Runnin' Pardners*, for Rounder Records. George worked in the studio and toured with David Byrne, recorded with Robbie Robertson, and played on Harry Connick Jr.'s first funk/soul CD "She". In addition, George performed on three back-to-back Platinum CD's with Tori Amos. He has also released four CD's with his own with *Runnin' Pardners*.

Now, After more than 25 years of separation, Art Neville, Zigaboo Modeliste, George Porter Jr., and Leo Nocentelli are returning to festival, concert and club stages as the supergroup that put New Orleans funk on the map and that continues to exert an unparalleled influence on American roots and popular music. The Meters' unique place as a touchstone for countless jam bands and as one of the most sampled groups in all of hip hop and pop music has kept it relevant to contemporary audiences in a way that few, if any other 70's groups can claim.

The Dunkin' Donuts Newport Folk Festival lineup is as follows: On Friday, August 4, 8 pm, at the International Tennis Hall of Fame, Ronan Tynan and Cherish the Ladies will perform. On Saturday, August 5 from 11:30 am - 7:00 pm at Fort Adams State Park: David Gray, Rosanne Cash, Sonny Landreth, Bettye LaVette, Chris Smither and The Duhks will appear on the Dunkin' Donuts Stage; Sonya Kitchell, Mary Gauthier, song circle with Chris Smither, Darrell Scott and Jeffrey Foucault, Darrell Scott [solo] and Rosalie Sorrels perform on the Harbor Stage; Beólach, Hot Toddy and Blue perform on the Waterside Stage. On Sunday, August 6, also from 11:30 am to 7:00 pm at Fort Adams State Park: Indigo Girls, The Meters, Madeleine Peyroux, Keller Williams, Patty Larkin and Tim Eriksen presents Shape Note all perform on the Dunkin' Donuts Stage; Odetta, Grace Potter & The Nocturnals, *La Guitarra* featuring Patty Larkin, Mimi Fox & Muriel Anderson, Tim Eriksen & Riley Baugus, Riley Baugus [solo], *Song Circle* with Martyn Joseph, Bob Franke & Kerry Grombacher and Abigail Washburn are set to appear on the Harbor and Waterside Stages. More artists and stage lineup will be announced shortly!

TICKETS: Tickets to the **Ronan Tynan** and **Cherish The Ladies** evening concert at 8 pm, August 4th at the Newport Casino, International Tennis Hall of Fame, 194 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI, are **\$30, \$45, \$60 and \$75**.

General admission tickets to Fort Adams State Park events August 5 and 6 are \$55.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children between 2 and 12 either day. Children under 2 will be admitted free of charge. Individual adult tickets go to \$59.00 for Saturday or Sunday on festival weekend, if available. **A limited number of Adult 2-Day Saturday/Sunday tickets are also available (while they last) for \$95.00.**

WHERE TO GET TICKETS:

For **NEWPORT AREA PATRONS**, the festival ticket office is located at 770 Aquidneck Avenue in Middletown. Cash, checks and major credit cards are accepted. Call **(401) 847-3700** for more information and current office hours. Starting this year, tickets will also be available at the **Newport County Convention & Visitors Bureau** located at 23 America's Cup Avenue in Newport.

All Tickets are also available on line at <http://www.ticketweb.com/>, by phone at **(866) 468-7619** and by mail. To order by mail send a check or money order for the ticket cost plus a \$4.00 handling charge per order to: Dunkin' Donuts® Newport Folk Festival, P.O. Box 1221, Newport, RI 02840.

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- ❑ Tune in to **WFUV 90.7 FM**, in New York, the official flagship radio station of the 2006 Dunkin' Donuts® Newport Folk Festival.
- ❑ **mvyradio** is the official world wide internet radio station of the 2006 Dunkin' Donuts® Newport Folk Festival.
- ❑ **Festival Productions, Inc.** has its own website at <http://www.festivalproductions.net/>