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October 5, 2005

For Immediate Release:

Christmas With Aaron Neville Quintet

Featuring Charles Neville

Berklee Performance Center

Wednesday, November 30, 8:00 pm

New CD: *Christmas Prayer* To Benefit Red Cross Katrina Disaster Relief

Tickets are on sale now

HT Productions will present **Christmas With Aaron Neville Quintet Featuring Charles Neville** Wednesday, November 30 at 8:00 pm at Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston. Tickets at \$46.00 and \$36.00 (includes \$.50 Berklee Performance Center restoration charge) are on sale now at the Berklee Performance Center Box office, at all Ticketmaster outlets, at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling: (617/508) 931-2000. **For more information, call: 617-747-2261.**

The great New Orleans artist Aaron Neville, seen on CNN News by millions throughout the September 2005 Hurricane Katrina disaster coverage has just released a new CD on the EMI label entitled: ***Christmas Prayer***. A portion of the proceeds (\$.60 per unit) will go to Red Cross Katrina Disaster Relief. Featuring a dozen Christmas standards, ***Christmas Prayer*** is Neville's second Christmas offering and his 20th album. His first holiday outing, "Soulful Christmas," sold over one million units.

Produced by record veteran Milton Davis (Neville Brothers, Dionne Farris, Paula Abdul) with other selections produced by Barry Beckett (Bob Dylan, Joe Cocker and Dire Straits, among many others), ***Christmas Prayer*** offers 12 tracks of memorable holiday music, delivered in the singer's trademark vibrato style. Among the dozen songs are "White Christmas," "The First Noel" and "Christmas Prayer."

In recent weeks, Aaron and his brothers have been criss-crossing the country, headlining an endless array of Katrina benefit concerts, headlining alongside Simon and Garfunkel, the Dave Matthews band and others.

"To see my New Orleans in the state she is in, is my worst nightmare," laments Aaron. "By the grace of God, New Orleans and the entire Gulf Coast will pull through this massive devastation."

Born January 24, 1941, Aaron is the third of the four famous Neville Brothers of New Orleans. A product of that city's richly complex musical culture, his first vocal model was older brother Art, keyboardist and founder of the Meters. Brother Charles played sax with B.B. King while brother Cyril became Aaron's partner in a funk band they called the Soul Machine.

Throughout the sixties Aaron recorded for local Louisiana labels, but it wasn't until 1966 that he broke onto the national scene with "Tell It Like It Is," the plaintive ballad that went #1 on the pop charts, a song still considered a classic in the annals of American music. Issued on the obscure Par-Lo Records, the hit unfortunately coincided with the label's demise. With no follow-up and few royalties, Aaron's career stalled. Beset by demons both professional

and personal, he struggled for the next ten years.

Aaron, Charles and Cyril gigged as The Wild Tchoupitoulas in New York before returning to New Orleans in 1976 to record the landmark album of the same name. The *Wild Tchoupitoulas* album celebrated the Indian tribe whose leader, George (Big Chief Jolly) Landry, was the brothers' beloved uncle and prime musical/spiritual inspiration. For the first time, all four Neville brothers recorded together.

The Neville Brothers began their string of successful albums in 1977, beginning on Capitol and moving to A&M. The high point came in 1989 with "Yellow Moon," written and sung by Aaron, whose solo career was revived in 1991 with ***Warm Your Heart***, the acclaimed album produced by George Massenburg and Linda Ronstadt.

It was Ronstadt who, in 1989, had featured Aaron on her album *Cry Like a Rainstorm, Howl Like the Wind*, resulting in the #2 pop hit duet "Don't Know Much."

"Linda is the real reason my solo career found a new life," he says.

While the Nevilles have long reigned as New Orleans royalty, Aaron's musical tastes have crossed many frontiers.

"Jazz was as much a part of my musical education as blues or funk," he adds. He credits a host of performers, from his father, Arthur Neville, to Nat King Cole to Ray Charles with influencing his musical style.

"Back in the day, I met Ray along the way. No one was more soulful. Ray had an approach to jazz, he had an approach for all music that stayed true to his own style. I hope the same is true of me."

Aaron has won four Grammy® awards: in 1989 for Best Pop Duo with Linda Ronstadt for "Don't Know Much"; in 1989 for Best Pop Instrumental Performance with the Neville Brothers for "Healing Chant"; in 1990 for Best Pop Duo with Linda Ronstadt for "All My Life"; and for Best Country Collaboration with Vocals with Trisha Yearwood for "I Fall to Pieces" in 1994. He was named Best Male Singer two straight years in the *Rolling Stone* critics' poll.