

NEWS RELEASE

UMass Fine Arts Center www.fineartscenter.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 14, 2009

WHAT: Center Series Presents New Orleans' Own Hot 8 Brass Band
Friday, February 6, 8:00 PM, Bowker Auditorium
Tickets available at 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS or online at
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Let the Good Times Roll with New Orleans' Own Hot 8 Brass Band at Bowker Auditorium

AMHERST, January 14, 2009— New Orleans' own Hot 8 Brass Band has epitomized New Orleans street music for over a decade. Longtime featured artists at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, the ensemble brings the music of the Big Easy to Bowker Auditorium on Friday, February 6 at 8 P.M. For this special evening, it's a Mardi Gras party so patrons are invited to dress for the occasion. In conjunction with this performance there will be a screening of Spike Lee's film, *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*, about the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and the federal government's response to the catastrophe. Hot 8 is featured in the film. The film is free and open to the public and will be screened Sunday, February 1: Part I at 2pm; Part II at 5pm in Herter 227, UMass Amherst. Each part is approximately two hours long.

The appearance of the Hot 8 is one of this season's "The Arts Give Back" performances. Audience members are requested to bring an item from the Dakin Humane Society's wish list. Visit www.dakinshelter.org for a list of needs. Dakin was instrumental in finding shelter for displaced animals after Hurricane Katrina. The Hot 8 Brass Band has also been part of an important relief project following Hurricane Katrina. SAVE OUR BRASS! is a grass-roots project

that has brought music and instruments to shelters, temporary trailer parks, and communities across the Gulf Coast.

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 the Hot 8 so special are the sounds they coax from their well-loved, well-worn horns. The band plays the traditional Second Line parades, hosted each Sunday afternoon by Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs, infusing their performances with the funk and energy that makes New Orleans music loved around the world. 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. Today, the parades are not tied to any particular event, holiday or commemoration; rather, they are generally held for their own sake and to let the good times roll.

Members of the Hot 8 Brass Band have toured in Japan, Italy, France, Spain, Finland, England and Sardinia. The Band performs annually at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, world and jazz festivals across the US and Europe, and were featured in the Spike Lee documentary *When the Levees Broke*. The Hot 8 has released three critically acclaimed recordings and is featured on the latest Blind Boys of Alabama recording on Time-Life Records.

Tickets are \$25 and \$15; Five College/GCC students and youth 17 and under are \$15. Tickets are available at the Fine Arts Center Box Office, 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS or online at www.fineartscenter.com. The appearance of the Hot 8 Brass Band at Bowker Auditorium on the UMass Amherst campus is sponsored by WEIB 106.3 FM. The appearance of New Orleans' Own Hot 8 Brass Band is funded in part by the Expeditions program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program and the American Masterpieces initiative, with additional support from the six New England state arts agencies.

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