

Close the Door, the Hurricane is Coming!

The New Orleans Musicians' Clinic celebrates its 9th birthday during the heat of the summer months in 2007. My 9th birthday was celebrated as Hurricane Betsy was blowing ashore in New Orleans. Living on the outskirts of the French Quarter, I recall a houseful of relatives coming to higher ground to ride out the storm. Living in a raised shotgun house, we felt safe.

I also remember standing by the door wondering why no one was coming to my birthday party. My father ran outside to gather pieces of slate that were falling from the roof. He turned to me and said, "Close the door, the hurricane is coming!"



Forty years later, I watched from over 650 miles away, how the "City that Care Forgot" was forgotten. Sure, you can say that people that live below sea level should know better. We know the threats of the storm surge, the high winds and tornados that level the land. We know the song and dance of the preparation and evacuation. What we, obviously, don't know is that the systems that we depend upon are not there when we need them.

My focus is the recovery of the NOMC and rebuilding of the health care delivery system for our musicians. As we go to press, the gulf waters are calm, but the door remains closed.

Meryl Leiva, Director of Operations

Hallelujah for the NOMC Gig Fund!

By Bruce "Sunpie" Barnes

What would the musicians have done without the NOMC Gig Fund? One of the toughest things about coming back to New Orleans post-Katrina was finding a reason to be here on a daily basis, and pretending that things would soon be back to normal. I honestly didn't remember what pre-Katrina normal felt like any more. As a working musician and park ranger at a national park dedicated to jazz music, the uncertainty was everywhere in the months that followed the storm.



At New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park the much needed help from the New Orleans Musicians' Clinic (NOMC) allowed us to add extra performances to our weekly schedule of events and create urgently needed jobs for musicians. The park also added a Friday afternoon concert to complement our existing Saturday series. I remember how happy people were to hear music streaming from our visitor center doors in Dutch Alley.

For folks visiting New Orleans, the music we provided was what they came hoping to see and hear. For locals these afternoon concerts were a sign that things could get back to pre-K bliss. One hundred percent of NOMC funds went directly to musicians and then circulated back into the local economy.

The Music For All Ages Program kicked off on September 3, 2006 and continued weekly for four months. Saturday mornings at the Visitor Center were truly magical moment that joined the youth and the legends of jazz in New Orleans.

Bruce "Sunpie" Barnes

is a veteran musician, park ranger, actor, all-American college football player with the Kansas City Chiefs. Becoming a park ranger fulfilled a dream that Bruce had as early as the third grade. His other dream was to become a musician. Bruce has toured 35 countries and performs with with his musical group, Sunpie and the Sunspots, performing zydeco and African-Caribbean influenced rhythms.



Stroke

(also called: Brain Attack)

A stroke is a medical emergency.

Strokes happen when blood flow to your brain stops. Within minutes, brain cells begin to die.

There are two kinds of stroke. The more common kind, called ischemic stroke, is caused by a blood clot that blocks or plugs a blood vessel in the brain. The other kind, called hemorrhagic stroke, is caused by a blood vessel that breaks and bleeds into the brain. "Mini-strokes" or transient ischemic attacks (TIAs), occur when the blood supply to the brain is briefly interrupted.

Symptoms of stroke are:

Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg (especially on one side of the body)

Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech

Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes

Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination

Sudden severe headache with no known cause

If you have any of these symptoms, you must get to a hospital quickly to begin treatment.

Resource: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke



QUIZ: Are you at risk for heart disease or stroke?

1. Are you over 55 years old?
2. Do you smoke?
3. Is your blood pressure 140/90 or higher?
4. Has your doctor told you that your total cholesterol level is 200 mg/dL or higher?
5. Has anyone in your family had a heart attack or stroke?
6. Do you have diabetes or gestational diabetes?
7. Do you have a body mass index (BMI) score of 25 or more?
8. Do you get less than 30 minutes of physical activity on most days?

Reduce Your Risk

Everyone has some stroke risk. A few stroke risk factors are beyond your control, such as being over the age of 55, being male, being African-American, having diabetes, having a family history of stroke. If you have one these risk factors, it is even more important that you learn about the lifestyle and medical changes you can make to prevent a stroke.

Call 911 if you have any of these symptoms.

Every minute counts!



Clinic building (above); Catherine Lasperches, family nurse practitioner (left), Sean Clark (center) and Kiersta Kurtz-Burk, MD, physical medicine and rehab faculty (right)



A Healthy Move

The New Orleans Musicians' Clinic has moved to 2820 Napoleon Avenue. Catherine Lasperches, family nurse practitioner, has treated more than 1200 musicians since the clinic reopened after Hurricane Katrina.

Patients are referred for medical specialties, dental, optometry, mental health care and physical therapy. NOMC patients are responsible for the \$25 co-pay at the time of medical appointment. Low cost prescriptions are available through the Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans.

Your good health WILL keep the music alive in New Orleans!

Call today: (504) 412-1366

Measuring Success

1996

Meeting of Sybil Morial, Dr. Jack McConnell, Dr. Mervin Trail, Dr. Robert Mariner, to discuss possibility of establishing a health care service for musicians.

1997

Thanks to Johann Bultman, NOMC concept gains three active community partners: LSU Healthcare Network and the LSU Health Sciences Center, the Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans, and the Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation.

1998

NOMC officially opens its door to health care for musicians in New Orleans.

1999

NARAS/The Grammy Foundation awards \$20,000 and the LSUHSC Kresege Hearing Lab to create a model program for hearing protection for musicians.

2000

NOMC hosts its first gala fundraiser. Knopf Publisher, Ken Burns, and the Garden District Bookshop selects NOMC as the local charity to launch the book "*Jazz*" companion to a Ken Burns' latest documentary.

2001

NARAS/The Grammy Foundation awards LSUHSC's Eye Center a two-year grant for glaucoma screening and treatment of musicians.

2002

Dr. Jack McConnell is honored by the Jazz Foundation of America for his pivotal role in the creation of NOMC. Russian delegation meet with Johann Bultman and tour the NOMC and DCSNO clinics.

2005

Catherine Lasperches joins NOMC as family nurse practitioner.

On August 29, Hurricane Katrina and levee breaches flood the City of New Orleans, crippling the health care delivery system. NOMC opens a clinic-in-exile in Lafayette, Louisiana.

On December 15, NOMC clinic returns to New Orleans.

2006

Gig Fund established to assist musicians and their families with financial constraints as a result of the hurricane and flooding. Medical outreach services continue in Lafayette, Louisiana.

SWEET HOME NEW ORLEANS is established in partnership of 10 non-profits to address the revitalization of music and culture by helping overcome the barriers of affordable housing and social services.

2007

With funding from Rotary Deutschland and Carrollton Rotary Club of New Orleans, a Musician Mentorship Program is created.

St. Anna's Musicians Mission (SAMM) and mobile medical van provides musicians a holistic environment where musicians can gather on Wednesday evenings. Dinner and musical jazz session provide a venue to complement the medical outreach center. Eastern and western medicine join as medical and mental health providers sit side-by-side with acupuncture and massage therapists.

Rockin' in the Big Apple for the Big Easy



As the hurricane brushed ashore the Mississippi coast line and the levees broke in Louisiana, the subway talk was directed toward the mass loss in New Orleans. The outpouring continues from New York toward New Orleans.

During the first Jazz Fest weekend in New Orleans, diplomats, musicians and music lovers traveled from Washington, DC to New York to enjoy "Rockin' in the Big Apple for the Big Easy" - a benefit concert for the musicians in New Orleans. Coordinated by the New Orleans Musicians' Clinic, in cooperation with the Embassy of Hungary in Washington, the event was attended by more than 250 people.

The "Coalition of the Willing" band thrilled the audience with a two hour performance. The band includes Hungarian Ambassador to the United States, Andras Simonyii; rock legend Jeff "Skunk" Baxter, formerly of the Doobie Brothers and Steely Dan, and currently an advisor to the Pentagon; United States Ambassador to Korea Alexander Vershbow; former Assistant Secretary of State Lincoln Bloomfield; former presidential aid Daniel Poneman; and the Executive Vice President for The Center of Regulatory Effectiveness, Dan McDermott.

The Coalition performed classic hits including "Secret Agent Man," "Back in the USSR," and "Wild Thing" (performed in Hungarian). The band closed the evening with New Orleans classic "House of the Rising Sun." Arlee Leonard, a local New Orleans favorite, joined the evening celebration. The Juilliard Sextet ended the evening of music. Jacquemos NYC kept the guests' appetite satisfied with New Orleans cuisine.

Keepin' the Music Alive

Sports Illustrated

Gibson donated the guitar, Jimmy Buffet and the Sports Illustrated swimsuit models autographed it, and the guitar was auctioned on E-Bay to raise money for NOMC. The proceeds check was presented at the Jazz Fest Gala Party.



Threadheads

So the saying goes, 'the best friends are tried and true.' Such is the case for a group that venture to New Orleans each year during Jazz Fest. They hold a special place in their hearts for the NOMC and we thank them!



Drum Workshop

The city streets are not always safe, but drums are usually not the victim. For Russ Broussard, husband and drummer of Susan Cowsill's band, the fact that his car was broken into was of concern; however, when he realized that the only thing left in the car was his drummer's chair, it was not a good day. Thanks to generosity of Drum Workshop, Inc. of Oxnard, California, Russ can keep the beat alive.



Other Awards Received

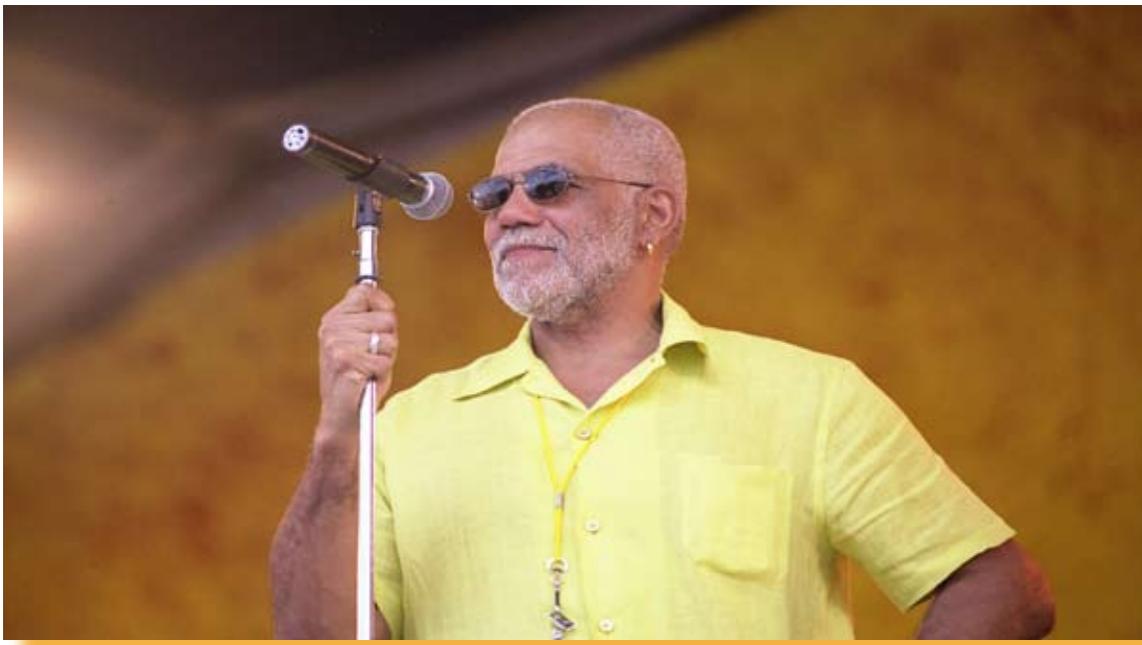
The Big Easy Entertainment Awards

The Nathan Cummings Foundation

The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival

The OffBeat Foundation

Celebration of Ed Bradley



The vintage French stained-glass windows that adorn the outer walls of the oldest African-American Church in the United States rattled with joy during the early morning hours of April 29, 2007.

Parishioners, visitors on their way to Jazz Fest, and music lovers gathered in St. Augustine Church, the choir sang of the joy to be alive in a church that has struggled to keep its doors open.

This Sunday service brought special meaning to many that traveled to share in the music and in memory of a man that treasured New Orleans and Jazz Fest: Ed Bradley. Following the two hour jazz mass, a traditional second-line parade led by the Treme Brass Band, was met by the Wild Magnolias (an Mardi Gras Indian Tribe) by the side of the church and tomb of the unknown slave. The crowd grew larger as the drums and chants of the musicians guided the congregation toward the outdoor events in celebration of the life of Ed.



Musicians celebrating the memory of Ed Bradley and New Orleans were Dr. John, Marva Wright, Topsy Chapman, The Treme Brass Band, the Wild Magnolias, Art Neville, and Al “Carnival Time” Johnson, and the St. Augustine Soulful Voices Choir.

Ed’s widow, Patricia Blanchet, and NOMC have created the Ed Bradley Memorial Brass Band Mentorship Program, which will assist children from Treme. Donations can be made at www.neworleansmusiciansclinic.org.



NOMC

KEEPIN' new orleans music ALIVE

Featured Advocates



The hot summer months have not kept musicians from doing what they enjoy... playing music and helping other musicians. Slew and Cary B have contacted over 450 musicians to keep a pulse on the musicians in the community. Slew also orchestrates the St. Anna's Musicians Mission on Wednesday evenings.

Caroline Beckelheimer (Cary B) and Mark McLaughlin (Slew)

The New Orleans Musicians' Clinic

was founded in partnership with the LSU Health Sciences Center, the Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation, and the Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans.

NOMC Mission

is to sustain Louisiana's musicians in body, mind, and spirit by developing access to primary care, preventative health services, as well as social and occupational outreach.

This edition of Rhythms

*is made possible by the generous grant from
The Nathan Cummings Foundation*



NEW ORLEANS MUSICIANS' CLINIC (Est. 1998)

LSU Health Sciences Center Foundation
P.O. Box 58126
New Orleans, LA 70158-8126

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1670
New Orleans, LA



You can help keep the music alive

Credit card donations can be made online at
www.NewOrleansMusiciansClinic.org

Mail checks payable to:
New Orleans Musicians Clinic
PO Box 58126, New Orleans, LA 70158

NOMC is a non profit (501)(c)(3) fund
of the LSU Health Sciences Center Foundation

NOMC Administrative Office
P. O. Box 58126, New Orleans, LA 70158
(504) 415-3514

E. Johann Bultman, Founding Director
Bethany Bultman, Program Director
Cathi Fontenot, MD, Medical Director
Catherine Lasperches, FNP, Clinical Director
James Morris, Social Service Director
Meryl Leiva, Operations Director
Beth Fisher, Communications
Dinah Daley, Donor Relations

Mark A. Cunningham, Legal Counsel

For more information on NOMC or to donate, please visit www.NewOrleansMusiciansClinic.org