

# NIAGARA ERIE REGIONAL COALITION

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### **"The Big Easy in Buffalo" Music Education & Concert Series Brings In Nine Events, April '07 to February '08**

*Proceeds to buy instruments for Buffalo, Niagara Falls public schools*

"The Big Easy in Buffalo" – a series of nine events that will bring New Orleans and Louisiana bands to the area for music education programs and concerts taking place from April 2007 to February 2008 – was announced today by the Niagara Erie Regional Coalition, Buffalo Niagara Convention & Visitors Bureau Foundation, and Music Is Art. Ticket sales from the concerts will be used to purchase music instruments for donation to the Buffalo and Niagara Falls public school systems. The full schedule is available at [www.bigeasybuffalo.com](http://www.bigeasybuffalo.com)

Artists such as Ellis Marsalis, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Jon Cleary, and Terrance Simien will go to schools throughout Erie and Niagara Counties to take place in music education programs. The artists will then perform ticketed concerts in the evening that are open to the public. At the conclusion of the series, ticket revenue will be used for the instrument donation program.

"There are four distinct benefits to this series; music education, instrument donation, the opportunity for our region to experience the culture of New Orleans that they've heard so much about in the past year and half, and the employment of artists who are still facing the after-effects of Hurricane Katrina on their lives and careers," explained Regional Coalition Tourism & Culture Chair and CVB Director of Tourism David Lacki.

"I got a chance to tour some of the hardest hit areas during our performance at the re-opening of the Superdome earlier this year," added Music Is Art founder Robby Takac. "There is still so much reconstruction to be done, and part of that includes paying attention to the survival of the distinct culture and attitude that New Orleans has brought to music and the arts. Music Is Art is proud to be a part of the Big Easy program, helping remind the people of Western New

York of this fine culture, and the challenges these fantastic musicians face at home for years to come."

The series was made possible by a grant from the New York State Music Fund, as well as the sponsorship of WBFO. Additional sponsors are still being sought to ensure as much revenue as possible goes to instrument donation. To become a sponsor, please call 716-856-6525 x121.

"People attending the concerts in this series are going to get a unique chance to see a mix of music legends like Ellis Marsalis and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, along with bands that once they hear them will become new favorites," Regional Coalition Executive Director Tod A. Kniazuk concluded. "The best part is that for \$15 to \$25 a show they're not only going to get a great concert, they'll be helping local music education and the musicians of New Orleans."

### The Series

April 17	Ellis Marsalis Trio, Joe Krown, UB Center for the Arts
May 10	The Pine Leaf Boys, The Tralf Music Hall
June 14	the subdudes, The Tralf Music Hall
September 13	Jon Cleary & The Absolute Monster Gentlemen, The Tralf
October 4	Eric Lindell, The Tralf Music Hall
November 16	Terrance Simien & The Zydeco Experience, The Tralf
December 6	Preservation Hall Jazz Band, UB Center for the Arts
January 18 '08	Stanton Moore, The Tralf Music Hall
February 1 '08	Mardi Gras Jam featuring the Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Papa Grows Funk, and more!, The Town Ballroom

## The Artists

**Ellis Marsalis Trio** – Regarded by many as the premier modern jazz pianist in New Orleans, Mr. Marsalis is the patriarch of the first family of jazz and has taught such noted artists as Harry Connick, Jr. and Terence Blanchard. He has been a vanguard of modern jazz in New Orleans for decades and continues to write, record, and perform regularly – frequently with his son Jason on drums. Mr. Marsalis will bring his trio to the UB Center for the Arts for a rare performance outside his home city of New Orleans.

**Joe Krown** – Originally from Long Island, Joe Krown attended the University at Buffalo in the 1970s, but left to pursue music. Now he returns to UB to perform solo piano selections featuring the history of New Orleans piano from Jelly Roll Morton to Professor Longhair. Piano is one of the most important instruments in New Orleans music, and Joe Krown will show its diversity and energy. Welcome back!

**The Pine Leaf Boys** – With all five members in their early 20s, The Pine Leaf Boys have made a name for presenting their own inimitable brand of traditional Cajun and Creole music with youthful exuberance. Skillful multi-instrumentalists, it's not uncommon to see them switch and trade-off during their raucous shows. Hailing from farms and villages in Cajun country the Pine Leaf Boys have been preserving the traditional Cajun sound, while allowing it to breathe and stretch with those who play it.

**the subdudes** – Originally formed in 1987, the subdudes combined tight vocal melodies, mostly acoustic instrumentation, and a strong emphasis on songwriting into a musical mix of blues, folk, r&b, country, Cajun, funk, gospel, and rock & roll. The band broke up in 1997, but reunited at Jazz Fest 2003. Since then they've been drawing from the great forms of American music to create their trademark New Orleans flavored Americana. This is a group that perfectly blends harmonies and melodies into great music and a good time.

**Jon Cleary & The Absolute Monster Gentlemen** – If you've seen Bonnie Raitt live in the past couple of years, then you've already been introduced to Jon Cleary as Bonnie's keyboard player and frequent duet singer and songwriter. Now experience Jon Cleary & The Absolute Monster Gentlemen as they bring the funk in one of the best live performances you'll ever see. His live shows are an explosive funk party mixing old school soul with the rhythms of New Orleans. This is one show you do not want to miss!

**Eric Lindell** – Here's a chance to catch an artist on the verge of breaking out onto a national stage. California-born, New Orleans-schooled singer/songwriter/vocalist Eric Lindell is a roots rocker with dozens of original songs that combine soul-shaking rhythm & blues, reggae grooves, swamp pop and blues. Recently signed to a national deal with Alligator Records, you'll be hearing about Eric Lindell for years to come, but you can see him now.

**Terrance Simien & The Zydeco Experience** – Zydeco is one of those truly unique forms of music from Louisiana, and one of the most unique zydeco masters is Terrance Simien. As he evolves to create a fusion of sound like no other, he is taking his beloved zydeco music to a new level and into a larger music world, the celebrating circles of American roots music. He continues to raise the standards for his genre by establishing himself as a formidable songwriter and an absolutely astonishing singer, who evokes comparisons to Sam Cooke and Aaron Neville. In addition, Terrance Simien is devoted to music education through his “Creole for Kids” program and is committed to the advancement of his music and fellow artists by leading a national effort to create a new Zydeco and Cajun Music Grammy voting category.

**Preservation Hall Jazz Band** – Perhaps no other band more perfectly captures the sound of traditional New Orleans jazz as does the Preservation Hall Jazz Band. They have traveled worldwide spreading their mission to nurture and perpetuate the art form of New Orleans jazz. While deeply reverent to their heritage and musicianship, a Preservation Hall concert is always a good time! As a special treat, in addition to playing all your favorites the band will perform a selection of holiday tunes done up in that great trad jazz way. So please join us as we present a familiar favorite in a new light.

**Anders Osborne** – Originally from Sweden, Anders Osborne found a home in New Orleans and has infused his songwriting, singing, and guitar playing with the city’s spirit ever since. Also an accomplished songwriter, Osborne’s songs have been recorded by artists like Tim McGraw, Keb’ Mo’, Tab Benoit, Double Trouble, Dr. John, Big Chief Monk Boudreaux and many others who have garnered Anders’ Grammy Awards for songwriting and producing. If you’re a fan of incredible musicianship that lends itself to extended jams and improvisation, this is the concert for you.

**The Dirty Dozen Brass Band** – The modern brass bands of New Orleans have taken the traditional marching brass bands and infused that sound with everything from r&b to hip hop to reggae. For over 25 years The Dirty Dozen Brass Band has been the leader in the new brass band tradition, and has continued to break ground. Adding a keyboard player and guitarist to support their front line of horns to more fully realize their sound, the Dozen’s latest release is a modern telling of Marvin Gaye’s classic album “What’s Going On” – made all the more relevant in this post-Katrina New Orleans. Both a party band and a serious musical force, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band is a fitting headliner to our series-concluding “Mardi Gras Jam.”

**Papa Grows Funk** – The name just about says it all; this is one of the most funky bands in the land. Led by John “Papa” Gros on keyboards, a typical set may include Mardi Gras funk, “Sea Cruise” or other rhythm and blues classics, original material and jams. And they never work from a set list. “All the tapers who record us always want to know what songs we play,” Gros said. “I tell them to send me a copy (of the tape) and I’ll e-mail the list, because I have no idea.” Anyone who caught their performance at the 2006 Rochester Jazz Festival knows that this is a seriously funky band.