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Jazz Legend Fights for the Future of Internet Radio and Jazz

Dr. Michael White Visits Congress and Hosts Benefit Concert

WASHINGTON D.C. – Continuing its fight to preserve the future of Internet radio for the tens of thousands of independent artists who have found a home online, the SaveNetRadio campaign today proudly welcomed Jazz legend, Dr. Michael White to Washington D.C. While in Washington, Dr. White, a working musician and an unofficial ambassador for the City of New Orleans and the heritage of jazz, will visit with Members of Congress to fight for the future of Internet radio as an essential outlet for jazz artists.

“Jazz is a part of the history of New Orleans and of the United States,” said Dr. Michael White, “but today the sounds of traditional New Orleans jazz are rarely heard on terrestrial radio. Jazz artists like myself have found a home online that allows us to reach a larger audience, promote our music, and sell our work. The death of Internet radio would hurt all independent artists, and do irreparable damage to the Jazz community and the city of New Orleans that depends upon a music and entertainment economy.”

“Of the more than 6,000 artists joined together in support of Internet radio, there is no greater champion than the legendary Dr. Michael White,” said SaveNetRadio campaign spokesperson, Jake Ward. “Dr. White is a luminary for jazz musicians and the tradition of Jazz, and we are honored that he would lend not only his support, but his voice to this effort. There is perhaps no one more qualified to address the value and importance of Internet radio as an outlet for artists and genres left behind by terrestrial radio, than an artist who has made it his life’s work to remember and celebrate the history of jazz by bringing its unique sound to future generations of listeners. This coalition of artists, fans and webcasters has fought for more than a year to ensure the future of Internet radio as the true home for diversity and independent music for artists like Dr. Michael White and those who follow in his footsteps.”

While in Washington D.C., Dr. White will also host a free benefit concert tonight, July 22nd at HR 57 (1610 14th St. NW). All proceeds from the performance will be donated to the Renew Our Music Fund. The performance is open to the public. The door will open at 7 p.m.

Dr. Michael White, 53, is a legendary jazz clarinetist and recent 2008 NEA National Heritage Fellowship recipient Dr. Michael White. A New Orleans native, Dr. White has performed professionally for more than 40 years who is also a professor with an endowed chair at Xavier University. Dr. White leads the Original Liberty Jazz Band which he formed in 1981, and also leads the Liberty Brass Band and the Michael White Quartet.

Dr. White recently released his first post-Katrina CD, *Blue Crescent*, which has received critical acclaim. New Orleans' Offbeat Magazine's John Swenson said "*it would be hard to overstate the significance of Blue Crescent in the history of New Orleans music. At the moment when it appears that the last remaining treasures of the musical legacy left to this city by the inventors of jazz may have been utterly lost, Dr. Michael White has produced what must surely be one of the greatest examples of New Orleans traditional jazz ever recorded.*"

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