



Dr. Michael White

Legendary jazz clarinetist and recent 2008 NEA National Heritage Fellowship recipient Dr. Michael White, 53, is an award-winning musician, a professor with an endowed chair at Xavier University, a global New Orleans ambassador, and an active member of the SaveNetRadio coalition and supporter of Internet radio.

A New Orleans native, Dr. White has performed professionally for more than 40 years, starting in his late teens with the acclaimed Doc Paulin's Brass Band. 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. He has performed on several dozen recordings including 11 of his own CDs. Notably, in the late 1980s Dr. White met Wynton Marsalis and sparked Marsalis' interest in the music of the traditional jazz elders of New Orleans. This resulted in the seminal recording *Majesty of the Blues*, on which White is featured, and which marks Marsalis' turn toward appreciation and performance of the traditional repertoire of New Orleans jazz.

Hurricane Katrina cost Dr. White his personal home, his jazz archive, and his memorabilia collection which included more than 4,000 books, thousands of recordings, historic sheet music, more than 50 vintage clarinets, and footage of every filmed performance by Louis Armstrong. Dr. White lived in his car, was displaced to Houston, and then returned New Orleans where he lived in a FEMA trailer. But he kept performing, kept writing music and kept teaching. 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.*"

As an ambassador for the city of New Orleans and the heritage of Jazz, Dr. White has taken up the cause of Internet radio to ensure that today's jazz artists find the jazz audience online that is generally unavailable on broadcast radio. Jazz musicians have found a home on Internet radio, where their fans can discover and enjoy and purchase the music of a variety of artists, styles, and entire eras that are just not available elsewhere.

Dr. White is an honored member of the SaveNetRadio coalition, which formed in 2007 to combat a sound recording royalty rate increase that threatens to bankrupt the industry. SNR represents thousands of webcasters and more than six thousand recording artists, including dozens of Jazz musicians from New Orleans and across the country.

