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THE BOSWELL SISTERS CENTENNIAL

News Release

New Orleans to Celebrate Influential Boswell Sisters *Boswell Sisters Centennial Celebration* revives memory of pioneering New Orleans jazz trio; Live performances, film and seminars to mark Connee Boswell's 100th birthday

What: *The Boswell Sisters Centennial Celebration* commemorates the music and lives of the Boswell Sisters, a national singing sensation in the 1920s and '30s whose unique musical stylings influenced legendary singers such as Ella Fitzgerald, The Andrews Sisters, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and Wynonna Judd. The four-day happening includes live music performances and labs, a documentary short, and a series of seminars that covers the Boswell Sisters contributions to New Orleans music and their influence on jazz and harmony – and Connee Boswell, the most famous of the sisters, whose musical career extended into the 1960's.

When: Friday, Nov. 30 – Monday, Dec. 3, 2007 (see attached schedule of events)

Where: New Orleans, LA, various locations (see attached schedule of events)

Why: December 3, 2007 marks the 100th birthday of Connee Boswell. Connee died in 1976 at age 68. With her sisters, Martha and Helvetia "Vet" Boswell, she performed in the 1930's as The Boswell Sisters and became a highly influential singing group via recordings, radio and movies. By the time Connee retired in 1963, she and her sisters had recorded more than 300 songs, sold 70 million records and changed American popular music forever. However, over the years, the impact of the Boswell Sisters blended harmonies and unique arrangements has been overlooked.

Who: Live performers include the Pfister Sisters, Shout Sister, The Stolen Sweets, YazooZaz and Jan Shapiro, in addition to an array of distinguished speakers. Organized by the Boswell Sisters Centennial Committee, the Centennial is made possible by a grant from The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation, Inc., and partnerships with the Louisiana

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Schedule of Events:

Free Events

- Saturday, December 1, The Pfister Sisters bring the music of the Boswells to life, New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, 916 N. Peters Street, 2 – 4 PM
- Sunday, December 2, Seminars on the Boswell's music and influence, The Cabildo, Louisiana State Museum, 701 Chartres St., The Arsenal Room, 9 AM – noon.
- Sunday, December 2, Featured Artists in Concert, The Cabildo steps, Louisiana State Museum, 701 Chartres St., Noon – 4:00 PM: featuring:
 - The Stolen Sweets
 - Shout Sister
 - The Pfister Sisters
 - Jan Shapiro
 - YazooZazz
 - And special guests

Ticketed Events

(Specific locations, times and ticket information available in late September)

- **Listening Labs:** Get to know the Boswells through rare interviews and personal recordings. Labs scheduled throughout the weekend.
- **Get Your Boz On Party;** Kicking off the weekend's events, Friday evening, November 30. Meet the speakers and Boswell performers in an intimate party atmosphere. Exclusive screening of the documentary, *Connee Boswell: Life is a Song*.
- **The Boswell Bus Tour:** Come see the sites where Martha, Connee and Vet grew up, performed, and loved to come home to see. Saturday, December 1, 9 am – Noon.
- **The Stolen Sweets at Snug Harbor:** This hot new ensemble from Portland, Oregon gives a gypsy jump to the music and arrangements of the Boswell Sisters songs and more. Saturday, December 1.
- **Movie Night with the Pfister Sisters and David McCain at Snug Harbor:** The Boswell Renaissance started right here in New Orleans in the 1970s. This reunion unites Boswell biographer David McCain with the Pfister Sisters in a night of song, movie clips, and blasts from the past. This event is not to be missed. Sunday, December 2.

- **Connee's Birthday Party:** Celebrating the talent, the genius, the will and the courage of Connee Boswell on her 100th birthday. December 3, Luncheon.

Additional Resources & Information:

- www.bozzies.com
- www.pfistersisters.com
- www.stolensweets.com/index.php
- www.janshapiro.com/
- YazooZazz
- Centennial poster art



- Boswell Sisters Centennial Committee
 - Bruce Boyd Raeburn, Curator, Hogan Jazz Archives, Tulane University
 - Jan Shapiro, Voice Chair, Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA
 - Jack Lawrence, Songwriter, West Redding, CT