



CACHE VALLEY  
**CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

Ellen Eccles Theatre • Bullen Center • Thatcher-Young Mansion

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***PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND AWARDED 2006 NATIONAL  
MEDAL OF ARTS***

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LOGAN, UT- Preservation Hall Jazz Band, the ambassadors of New Orleans Jazz and the winner of the 2006 National Medal of Arts, will be returning to the Ellen Eccles Theatre on February 20 for Mardi Gras! and February 21. Known for preserving true New Orleans Jazz, the band will mix up the night with a little zydeco, Cajun, jazz and funk.

“Preservation Hall Jazz Band wowed Logan audiences in 2003,” said Wally Bloss, executive director of the Cache Valley Center for the Arts. “Jazz up your Mardi Gras this February with these master musicians.”

Straight from the French Quarter in New Orleans, Preservation Hall has dazzled audience members since 1961. Since the opening of Preservation Hall, the **Preservation Hall Jazz Band** has been heard almost every night, seven days a week. Founded by Alan & Sandra Jaffe, who sought to perpetuate the traditional jazz music of New Orleans, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band has toured the country and the world as emissaries of this unique American art form.

Representing the industry’s elite, Preservation Hall Jazz Band was awarded the **2006 National Medal of Arts**, the nation’s highest honor for artistic excellence. The National Medal of Arts, established by Congress in 1984, is awarded by the President to those who have made extraordinary contributions to the creation, growth, and support of the arts in the United States. “These individuals and organizations have all made enduring contributions to the artistic life of our nation,” said National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Dana Gioia “Whether by translating the masterpieces of Latin American literature or bringing genius to the design of everyday objects or simply preserving the great musical heritage of New Orleans, their work has enriched our national culture.”

After becoming director of Preservation Hall, Benjamin Jaffe made it his mission to follow in his father's footsteps. This means everything from booking and playing with the band. The bigger picture, which involves maintaining the Hall's balance between tradition and vitality, is just as important. Preservation Hall is home to such jazz greats as Willie and Percy Humphrey, George Lewis, famed pianist Sweet Emma Barret, Kid Thomas Valentine and many others over its 45 year history, the musical legacy of the Preservation Hall Jazz Bands is being carried on by current band members Carl LeBlanc, Ralph Johnson, Joseph Lastie Jr., Rickie Monie, Frank

Demond, John Brunious, Walter Payton, Lucien Barbarin, newcomer Clint Maedgen and Ben Jaffe. “These gentlemen are responsible for perpetuating the traditions that gave birth to the United States of America's gift to the International Arts Community, JAZZ” states Jaffe, continuing “It is these traditions that are in jeopardy. We are committed to rebuilding the New Orleans cultural community brick by brick.”

The band has recorded and issued many albums since the 60s, but with an in-house imprint access to their music has widened considerably. The first several releases present a wide perspective on the music of New Orleans, from archival (Best of the Early Years) to more recent recordings (Songs of New Orleans, recorded in 1999), from sweeping overviews (Shake That Thing, which gathers all active members of the group in one marathon session from 2001) to portraits of unforgettable performers (Sweet Emma, featuring the colorful, irascible, and brilliant pianist Sweet Emma Barrett and members of the band circa 1964, and Let's Make a Record, a tour de force one-woman performance on vocals and tambourine by the late Sister Gertrude Morgan). The Jaffes dedicated themselves only to supporting New Orleans jazz and those who played it.

For more information on this concert featuring or other upcoming events, call (435)752-0026. Tickets for *Preservation Hall Jazz Band* are \$31, \$27, \$25, and \$19 and may be purchased online at [www.CenterForTheArts.us](http://www.CenterForTheArts.us) or at the CVCA Ticket Office Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The center is found in historic downtown at 43 South Main in Logan, just 70 miles north of Salt Lake City.

The Ellen Eccles Theatre, Bullen Center and Thatcher-Young Mansion are owned by the City of Logan and managed by the Cache Valley Center for the Arts, a nonprofit organization that operates the performing arts complex.

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