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## **Jazz Great to headline Mardi Gras in October! show in Portland**

*NOLa Native Nicholas Payton joins others to help Katrina victims relocating to Rose City*

Portland, OR – The Portland Jazz Festival presented by Qwest is proud to announce that Grammy-winning trumpeter Nicholas Payton will headline an October 18<sup>th</sup> ***Mardi Gras in October!*** concert at McMenamins Crystal Ballroom to aid New Orleans musicians relocating in Portland following Hurricane Katrina. This celebration of New Orleans culture in all its pageantry will truly embody the saying, "Laissez les bonne temps roulez!"

"There are a number of musicians who sought refuge here and are starting to rebuild their lives and their careers here," said Sarah Bailen Smith, Managing Director of the Portland Jazz Festival. "They and we are honored that a musician of Nicholas Payton's caliber would come to Portland and help us help them."

Proceeds for the event will help offset travel, housing and living expenses for approximately 15-20 musicians already in Portland or on their way. So far, the Jazz Festival's presenting sponsor Qwest has joined with Azumano Travel, Mercy Corps and Portland State University in helping the musicians. Many jazz clubs and musicians are welcoming the New Orleans musicians to play with them as well.

In comparing Payton's trumpet sound to other contemporary, New Orleans trumpeters, the New York Times has said, "Payton's tone is the most magnificent with the biggest sound as if it were not made from sound waves but from something more tactile."

"When you have a Nicholas Payton, who was also displaced by the hurricane committing to help others, you'll attract others who will want to join in," said Bill Royston, Artistic Director of the Portland Jazz Festival. "We're in contact with artists and agents and should announce an incredible line-up in a few days, including those musicians who have relocated to Portland."

Like many New Orleans jazz musicians, Payton started playing the trumpet at a very early age (age 4 to be exact). Between the influence of his mother, a classical pianist, and his father, Walter, a renowned New Orleans jazz bassist, young Nicholas developed quickly.

The concert at the Crystal Ballroom October 18<sup>th</sup> at 8pm, doors open at 7 PM. Tickets are \$20 in advance and are available at [ticketswest.com](http://ticketswest.com), at all Tickets West/Safeway Outlets, by calling 503-224-8499 / Toll Free 1-800-992-8499 or at the Crystal Ballroom box office (1332 W Burnside).

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