

Contact: Patrice Bell-Mercadel (504) 520-5452
or Diana Mateo-Hernandez (504) 520-5120

**Xavier University to Host Popular Music Concert:
The Sacred and the Sinful: Hymns and Blues in New Orleans Jazz.**

New Orleans LA - Continuing with its Culture of New Orleans Series, Xavier University of Louisiana will host a repeat presentation of a popular musical concert and discussion, "The Sacred and the Sinful: Hymns and Blues in New Orleans Jazz," Sunday, March 18, at 2:00 p.m. in the University Center McCaffrey Ballroom (3rd floor), located at 4980 Dixon Street, The evening is presented and hosted by Dr. Michael White, Xavier's Keller Endowed Chair in the Humanities.

The afternoon will include a discussion and musical examples of black hymns and blues and their influence on traditional New Orleans Jazz. The focus will be on the makeup of hymns and blues, and how their vocal effects and structures became an important part of the early jazz repertoire and sound. Also included will be examples of the earliest recorded hymns in the jazz style and their use in functions like jazz funerals, church processions and second line parades and concerts.

The following featured artists are scheduled to perform: Dr. Michael White and the Original Liberty Jazz Band, trumpeter Leon Brown, gospel singer and pianist Cynthia Girtley, and a surprise guest.

The event is free and open to the public.

Culture of New Orleans Series

Xavier's Culture of New Orleans series was founded in 2001 by Xavier University Keller Endowed Chair in the Humanities, Dr. Michael White. Its purpose is to present various aspects of authentic New Orleans culture, featuring community practitioners, scholars and participants. Since its founding, the series has presented over two dozen programs,