



November 6, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Keeping the Blues Alive Awards

Memphis, TN –Twenty-one individuals and organizations will be honored with The Blues Foundation's 2008 Keeping the Blues Alive (KBA) Award during a recognition brunch at the Downtown Doubletree Hotel Saturday, February 2, 2008, in Memphis Tennessee. The KBA ceremony will be held in conjunction with the 24th International Blues Challenge (IBC) weekend of events that will feature the semifinals and finals of the world's largest gathering of Blues bands, as well as seminars, presentations, and receptions for blues societies, fans, and professionals.

The Keeping the Blues Alive Awards recognize the significant contributions to Blues music made by the people behind the scenes. Each is selected on the basis of merit by a select panel of Blues professionals. KBA Chairman Art Tipaldi notes with respect to this year's recipients, "The committee is once again impressed with the quality of the selected recipients - the outstanding men, women, and organizations that have evidenced a longstanding commitment to the Blues genre. In recent years, The Blues Foundation has increasingly recognized the global reach of this indigenous Afro-American art form and the 2008 honorees certainly reflect this awareness, with recipients hailing from Canada, France, and Sweden, in addition to the United States.

The 2008 Keeping the Blues Alive Award recipients are:

Art or Photography: VividPix & Design, Des Moines, Iowa

Blues Club: Knuckleheads Saloon, Kansas City, Missouri

Blues Organization: South Florida Blues Society, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Education: Fernando Jones, Chicago, Illinois

Festival: Edmonton's Labatt Blues Festival, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Film, Television or Video: *Ten Days Out: Blues From the Backroads*

Historical Preservation: Mississippi Blues Commission and Mississippi Development Authority, Division of Tourism for the Mississippi Blues Marker Trail, Jackson, Mississippi

International: Blues sur Seine, Mantes la Jolie, France

Internet: STLBlues.net, St. Louis, Missouri

Journalism: Don Wilcock, Scotia, New York

Literature: Arthur Flowers, Syracuse, New York

Manager: Michael Frank, Chicago, Illinois

Print Media: *Jefferson* magazine, Stockholm, Sweden

Producer: Bruce Iglauer, Chicago, Illinois

Promoter: Don Cohen, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Publicist: Mark Pucci, Atlanta, Georgia

Radio-Commercial: Stew "Beef Stew" Crossen, Vernon, Connecticut

Radio-Public: Holger Peterson, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Record Label: NorthernBlues Music, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Retailer: Cat Head Delta Blues & Folk Art, Clarksdale, Mississippi

Sponsor: Mike Glenn, New Daisy Theater, Memphis, Tennessee

Tickets to the KBA ceremony are included in the Total Weekend ticket package available online at www.blues.org. The IBC weekend, commencing Thursday, January 31, 2008, is sponsored in significant part by Arts Memphis, bandVillage.com, Budweiser and its local distributor D. Canale Beverages, the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise, Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau, Sonicbids, and XM Satellite Radio. Additional sponsors include: Beale Street Merchants Association, Tommy Clifton Art, Doubletree Hotel, FedEx, Gibson Guitars, Holiday Inn Select, Memphis Grizzlies, and the Residence Inn by Marriott. Media Sponsors include *Big City Rhythm and Blues*, *Blues Festival Guide*, *Blues Revue*, *BluesWax*, *Downtowner* magazine, House of Blues Radio Hour, *Living Blues*, and WREG-TV in Memphis.

The Blues Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Blues history, celebrating Blues excellence, supporting Blues education, and ensuring the future of this uniquely American art form. It is

the umbrella organization for a worldwide network of 165 affiliated Blues societies and has individual memberships around the globe. In addition to the Keeping the Blues Alive Awards, The Blues Foundation produces the Blues Music Awards, the Blues Hall of Fame Induction, and the International Blues Challenge. For more information on how to support The Blues Foundation check us out on the web at www.blues.org.

#

CONTACT:

Jay Sieleman
Executive Director
The Blues Foundation
901.527.2583 xt. 12
jay@blues.org