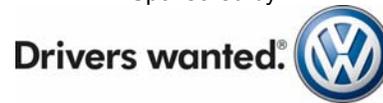




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Tickets Still Available for *the* Historic Concert of 2003

“Salute to the Blues” Takes Center Stage at Radio City Music Hall

Historic Concert Produced by Martin Scorsese Features Legendary Lineup Including Aerosmith, Gregg Allman, India.Arie, Natalie Cole, Shemekia Copeland, Robert Cray, Chuck D, Macy Gray, Dr. John, B.B. King, The Neville Brothers, Bonnie Raitt, Vernon Reid, Mavis Staples, and more

NEW YORK – Feb. 7, 2003 – Renowned artists across multiple music genres and generations will take to the stage at Radio City Music Hall tonight to celebrate their common heritage and passion – the blues. From roots to rock, jazz to rap, musical greats and special surprise guests will join forces for a once-in-a-lifetime “Salute to the Blues” benefit concert – produced by Experience Music Project – honoring the musicians and style that have inspired countless artists around the world.

Slated performers include Aerosmith, Gregg Allman, India.Arie, Billy Boy Arnold, Clarence “Gatemouth” Brown, Ruth Brown, Solomon Burke, Natalie Cole, Shemekia Copeland, Robert Cray, Chuck D, Mos Def, Honeyboy Edwards, John Fogerty, Macy Gray, Buddy Guy, Warren Haynes, Levon Helm, David Johansen, Dr. John, Larry Johnson, Angelique Kidjo, B.B. King, Chris Thomas King, Alison Krauss, Lazy Lester, Keb’ Mo’, The Neville Brothers, Odetta, Bonnie Raitt, Vernon Reid, The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, Mavis Staples, Angie Stone, Hubert Sumlin, James Blood Ulmer, Jimmie Vaughan and Kim Wilson.

The concert will also be filmed for theatrical distribution, directed by Antoine Fuqua (“Training Day”) and executive produced by Martin Scorsese.

“Salute to the Blues” is exclusively sponsored by Volkswagen and presented by Vulcan Productions with local support provided by W Hotels of New York. Volkswagen, with their long-standing history of supporting music as an important part of American culture, is also helping make possible production of a seven-part television series presented on PBS by WGBH Boston in Fall 2003, a 13-part public radio series, educational initiatives, a traveling museum exhibit produced by Experience Music Project, a comprehensive Web site at pbs.org and much more through their sponsorship. For more on Volkswagen's commitment to music, visit www.radiovw.com.



“Bringing all these legendary performers together under the same roof to celebrate the blues is truly a historic event,” said Alex Gibney, show producer for the concert and series producer for *The Blues*. “For blues aficionados, it just doesn’t get any better than this, and with the participation of some of today’s hottest contemporary artists the concert will surely inspire a new generation to explore the genre further.”

“There’s no better place than New York City to host ‘Salute to the Blues,’” said legendary blues artist and concert performer B.B. King. “The city has always been supportive of blues music and the arts, and many blues legends have performed at Radio City over the years. It just seems like a natural fit and is a way to give back to the blues in general and the New York community.”

“The idea of a benefit concert and related educational outreach was always part of Martin Scorsese’s vision for this project,” said Margaret Bodde, producer of *The Blues*. “His goal with this entire endeavor is to promote and preserve this music that has meant so much to him – personally and creatively – as well as supporting the musicians themselves. They are the living embodiment of the blues.”

Net concert proceeds benefit The Blues Music Foundation, a non-profit, international organization dedicated to the preservation of blues history, the celebration of blues excellence, support of music education (particularly the blues), and the provision of financial assistance to needy and worthy individuals who have made contributions to the blues. As a charity event to benefit the Foundation, contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

About *The Blues*™

Martin Scorsese’s *The Blues* is a seven-part series of personal and impressionistic films viewed through the lens of seven world-famous directors who share a passion for the music. In addition to Scorsese’s film, Charles Burnett, Clint Eastwood, Mike Figgis, Marc Levin, Richard Pearce, and Wim Wenders capture the essence of blues music and delve into its global influence — from its roots in Africa to its inspirational role with today’s top artists. Airing nationally on PBS (presented by WGBH Boston) in Fall 2003, the series anchors a multi-media initiative that celebrates the power and influence of the genre and educates the public on its profound impact on all forms of contemporary music. In conjunction with the films, there will be: a companion book published by Amistad/HarperCollins; value-added DVDs, a CD box set, individual soundtracks for each show, a single “Best of” album and individual artist recordings released collaboratively by SONY Music’s Columbia/Legacy Recordings division and Universal

Music Enterprises; and, a 13-part series on public radio. *The Blues* series is the cornerstone of a national campaign to celebrate the blues, kicking off with a congressional proclamation declaring 2003 YEAR OF THE BLUES. *The Blues* is a presentation of Vulcan Productions and Road Movies in association with Cappa Productions and Jigsaw Productions.

About Year of the Blues

In recognition of the blues' ongoing impact on music and cultural history here and abroad, and in celebration of the 100th anniversary of W.C. Handy's encounter with the genre, the United States Congress has proclaimed the year 2003 as YEAR OF THE BLUES (YOTB). The year will be celebrated around the country by bringing together blues events, multimedia projects (radio and film series), concerts, festivals and education initiatives. Spearheaded by Seattle-based Experience Music Project (EMP), and the Memphis-based Blues Foundation, YEAR OF THE BLUES aims to raise awareness of the blues, its unique American stories, and its influence in America and around the world. For more information about YEAR OF THE BLUES, please visit www.yearoftheblues.org.

About Experience Music Project

Experience Music Project (EMP) provides dynamic, multifaceted, ever-changing experiences through new and exciting explorations of American popular music, which both entertain and engage visitors in the creative process. EMP is an interactive music museum, which strives to reflect the essence of rock 'n' roll, its roots in jazz, soul, gospel, country and the blues, as well as rock music's influence on hip-hop, punk and other recent genres. Patrons can make their own music, see and learn about rare artifacts and memorabilia from EMP's collection of nearly 100,000 items, explore various musical milestones within unique interactive exhibits and discover the joy of music in all its forms. Founded by investor and philanthropist Paul G. Allen, under the direction of co-founder Jody Patton and designed by architect Frank O. Gehry, the 140,000 square foot multi-colored and "swoopy" museum rises up in the heart of Seattle at Seattle Center. Visit EMP online at www.emplive.com.

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