

**GERMANY'S "PRINCE OF NEW ORLEANS PIANO"  
THOMAS GERDIKEN**  
**To Showcase the Next Generation of  
New Orleans Musicians**  
**At Benefit for the NEW ORLEANS MUSICIANS CLINIC**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**NEW ORLEANS**—Germany's "Prince of New Orleans Piano" Thomas Gerdiken, will be performing at *Irvin Mayfield's Jazz Playhouse* as part of the club's on-going "Professor Piano Series" on Friday, November 26th from 5-8pm. This very special performance will serve as a fundraiser for the New Orleans Musicians Clinic. Gerdiken, his partner Ehme de Riese and Alfred Caston will also present a check for \$6,000 to the NOMC, from funds raised at their April 2010 "In the Spirit of New Orleans" concert, which featured the 20 member gospel group *JOYFUL* from New Orleans in Germany. A CD of this concert produced by Gerdiken and de Riese will be unveiled at this performance and will benefit the NOMC as well as many other New Orleans music and cultural organizations.

Gerdiken, a passionate and benevolent supporter of New Orleans music and musicians will also showcase the next generation of young musicians and tradition bearers in this appearance, which will include *Big Queen Cherise Nelson Harrison* and *Big Chief Brian with the Young Guardians of the Flame Mardi Gras Indians*, "Seeking Satch" Trumpet Competition winner *Terry Gibson Jr.* with his *Next Generation Brass Band*, the *New Orleans Jazz Institute's Saturday Music School Advanced Jazz Combo*, *Baba Akinwale Yuhdidiyuh* of the *Wild Magnolias* and gospel music from *JOYFUL*.

A native of Osnabrueck Germany, Gerdiken was classically trained in piano and voice. At the age of 13 he witnessed a performance of New Orleans Piano professor **JAMES BOOKER** in Osnabrueck and his whole world changed. Since then he has devoted much of his career to the study and performance of unique New Orleans piano repertoire. Gerdiken is a venerable and versatile musician, performing regularly in major venues in Europe. He has performed with the *Berlin Philharmonic* with *Maestro Sir Simon Rattle* and at the *Grand Old Opera of Frankfurt*. Gerdiken has also tour supported artists such as *Ray Charles*, *John Lee Hooker* and *Fats Domino*.

In February 2008, Gerdiken visited the 80th Birthday celebration of *Fats Domino* New Orleans. Inspired by his journey, Gerdiken has since actively supported New Orleans musicians, affected by hurricane Katrina. In July 2008 he conducted a benefit concert called "Help for New Orleans" in the *Bundeskunsthalle* in Bonn, Germany, the official museum of the German Federal Republic. Gerdiken hosted subsequent tours with musicians from *The Big Easy* in 2008 and 2009. In May of 2010 he returned to the *Bundeskunsthalle*, this time with New Orleans' own *Terry Gibson, Jr.*, 18 year old winner of the "Seeking Satch" Trumpet Competition for a performance there and several other cities in Germany.

Aside from supporting the efforts of the NOMC to keep New Orleans' established musicians healthy, Gerdiken is interested in the vitality of the next great New Orleans musicians and tradition bearers.

Gerdiken said recently of his upcoming performance in New Orleans, "It is very necessary and an inspiring duty to all of us to transfer the music of the city of New Orleans to the next generation. How did the young Thomas Gerdiken get started? I had the unbelievable gift to see *James Booker* live on stage in a small Jazz club in my hometown. I was thirteen years old and he inflamed in me an enthusiasm for the music of the city of New Orleans that is still burning hot."

This Thanksgiving weekend, take a break from shopping and join Germany's "Prince of New Orleans Piano" for cocktails, while supporting the health and wellness of our treasured musicians and the talents of our youth. The concert takes place on Friday Nov. 26th from 5-8pm at *Irvin Mayfield's Jazz Playhouse*, nestled in the *Royal Sonesta Hotel* on 300 Bourbon Street in New Orleans' French Quarter. Admission is free. Donations for the *New Orleans Musicians Clinic* will be accepted at the event.

