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## THE BOSWELL SISTERS CENTENNIAL

# News Release

### **Steamboat Natchez to Launch Boswell Sisters Centennial Events**

Kick-off celebration to include music by the Dukes of Dixieland, The Pfister Sisters and The Stolen Sweets

New Orleans, LA, October 25, 2007 – Vet Boswell, the youngest of the Boswell Sisters, last visited her hometown of New Orleans a year before she passed away in 1988. During that homecoming she told Boswell Sisters’ biographer David McCain, “The next time I come back, I want to come by riverboat.” That wish will be symbolically fulfilled on November 30 as the Boswell Sisters Centennial begins a weekend of concerts, seminars and events dedicated to the jazz trio with a dinner cruise aboard the Steamboat Natchez. The Boswell Sisters, who left New Orleans in 1928 and rocketed to radio stardom in a few short years, enjoyed an early hit with the riverboat-themed song, “Roll On, You Mississippi, Roll On.” “The Boswell Sisters and Connee became famous singing songs about the south and the river,” said Centennial Project Director, Cynthia Lucas. “When the Natchez offered to incorporate the Boswell theme into their Friday dinner cruise it seemed as natural as mixing beans with rice.”

The Natchez dinner cruise, which offers a buffet dinner and entertainment by the Dukes of Dixieland, will add two courses to Boswell-up its bill of faire. For local New Orleans favorites and pioneers in the modern revival of the Boswell sound, the Pfister Sisters, it will be a reunion of sorts. They traveled the Mississippi with the Natchez on the Bush-Clinton Katrina relief tour in 2005. The Stolen Sweets, a hot new ensemble from Portland, Oregon will serve up a second helping with their personal brand of Boswell-inspired music in their first appearance in the Crescent City

“The Natchez strongly supports the preservation of our hometown treasures,” said Gordon Stevens, President & CEO of New Orleans Steamboat Company. “The music of the Boswell Sisters represents one of the many facets of lasting and influential artistry that had its beginnings in New Orleans. We are pleased

**For Immediate Release**

to be able to treat our customers and the fans visiting New Orleans for the Centennial to what we believe will be a great night of entertainment.”

Tickets for the Natchez Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> dinner cruise are available online at [www.SteamboatNatchez.com](http://www.SteamboatNatchez.com) or by calling 504-569-1414 or 800-233-2628. Steamboat boarding begins at the Toulouse Street Dock at 6:00pm, and sails from 7:00pm-9:00pm. A pass for all Boswell Sisters Centennial events may be purchased at [www.bozzies.com/Centennial](http://www.bozzies.com/Centennial).

- What:** *The Boswell Sisters Centennial Celebration* commemorates the music and lives of New Orleans' Boswell Sisters, an international jazz harmony sensation from the 1930s whose unique musical stylings influenced legendary singers such as Ella Fitzgerald, The Andrews Sisters, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Wynonna Judd and many more. The four-day event includes live music performances and labs, a documentary short, and a series of seminars that covers the Boswell Sisters and Connee Boswell's contributions to popular music and their impact on performers that carries through to this day..
- When:** Friday, Nov. 30 – Monday, Dec. 3, 2007 (see attached schedule of events)
- Where:** New Orleans, LA, various locations (see attached schedule of events)
- Why:** December 3, 2007 marks the 100th birthday of Connee Boswell. Connee died in 1977 at age 68. With her sisters, Martha and Helvetia "Vet" Boswell, she performed in the 1930's as The Boswell Sisters and became a highly influential singing group via recordings, radio and movies. By the time Connee retired in 1963, she and her sisters had recorded more than 300 songs, sold 70 million records and changed American popular music forever. However, over the years, the impact of the Boswell Sisters blended harmonies and unique arrangements has been overlooked.
- Who:** Live performers include the Pfister Sisters, Shout Sister, The Stolen Sweets, YazooZaz and Jan Shapiro, in addition to an array of distinguished speakers. Organized by the Boswell Sisters Centennial Committee, the Centennial is made possible by a grant from The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation, Inc., and partnerships with the Louisiana State Museum, The New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, and the Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies at the University of New Orleans.

## Boswell Sisters Centennial Schedule of Events\*

Friday Nov. 30th	Saturday Dec. 1	Sunday Dec. 2	Monday, Dec. 3
6:00 PM– Centennial Launch Party, Steamboat Natchez, Toulouse St at the River, \$33.50 - \$56.50	9 AM -Noon – Big Boz Bus Tour of the Boswell Sisters' New Orleans, Boarding by French Market, N. Peters, \$25	9-Noon – Seminars and Presentations, Arsenal Room at the Cabildo, FREE	11:00 AM – Connee's 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash Marigny Brasserie, 640 Frenchmen St.
	2 – 4 PM – “All’s Well That’s Boswell,” Pfister Sisters at the Jazz Natl. Park, 916 N. Peters Street, FREE	Noon – 4 PM – Bozfest, with YazooZazz, Shout Sister, The Stolen Sweets and the Pfister Sisters, at the Cabildo, FREE	
	5 – 7 PM – Listening Labs and Hospitality, Centennial HQ, VIP Only	5 – 7 PM - Listening Labs and Hospitality, Centennial HQ, VIP Only	
	8 & 10 PM – Stolen Sweets & Shout Sister at Snug Harbor, 626 Frenchmen, \$20	8 & 10 PM – Swing Cinema at Snug Harbor, featuring Randall Riley's film “Connee Boswell: Life Is a Song,” the Pfister Sisters, and more, 626 Frenchmen, \$15	

\*Schedule as of October 25, 2007, subject to change.

### Additional Resources & Information:

- [www.bozzies.com](http://www.bozzies.com)
- [www.pfistersisters.com](http://www.pfistersisters.com)
- [www.stolensweets.com/index.php](http://www.stolensweets.com/index.php)
- [www.janshapiro.com/](http://www.janshapiro.com/)
- [YazooZazz](http://YazooZazz)

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- Boswell Sisters Centennial Committee
  - Bruce Boyd Raeburn, Curator, Hogan Jazz Archives, Tulane University
  - Jan Shapiro, Voice Chair, Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA
  - Jack Lawrence, Songwriter, West Redding, CT