

The Preservation Hall Legacy Band represents a tradition that started in 1963, when Preservation Hall first opened in the French Quarter. This brand-new band is comprised of some of the most revered alumni of the Hall, many of whom have toured the world with The Preservation Hall Jazz Band for decades. As the world-renowned Preservation Hall Jazz Band continues its exciting exploration of the boundaries of New Orleans jazz, the Preservation Hall Legacy Band has formed, with the help of the non-profit Preservation Hall Foundation, to help maintain a connection with the traditional aspects of the Hall's musical legacy.

The Preservation Hall Legacy Quintet is:

Gregg Stafford (trumpet)

Gregg Stafford is coined "The last Trumpet player in New Orleans" for a reason. He has dedicated his career to preserving the traditional New Orleans Jazz music and tradition. His trumpet playing is steeped in tradition. In his youth, however, he had no desire to become a musician. By chance, his high school band leader needed a trumpet player and recruited Stafford. Nine months later, he started marching in parades. He was sixteen years old, and at that time, in the late 1960s, brass band music was for "old men." But Stafford had grown up watching brass bands and loved practicing tunes at home. He began playing in the E. Gibson Brass Band with childhood friends Tuba Fats Lacen and Michael Myers and subsequently in Danny Barker's Fairview Baptist Church Band. Stafford also played in the Young Tuxedo Brass Band, which he went on to lead, the Olympia Brass Band, and the touring Preservation Hall Jazz Band.

Decades before he began playing regularly at Preservation Hall, Stafford came by to hear the music. But he absorbed much more from the musicians he thought of as fathers—Louis Cottrell, Harold Dejan, Albert Walters, Jack Willis, Teddy Riley, and many more. These men taught him about history, pride, and values. Stafford says music holds the people and the community together; every time he plays, he holds audiences in rapture.

Freddie Lonzo (trombone)

Born and raised in New Orleans' Uptown neighborhoods, Freddie was exposed to the music of the streets at a very young age. Having cemented his desire to play New Orleans jazz, these early Second Line parades would later offer him his first professional gig with EG Gabon and Doc Paulin's Band. A true master of every style of New Orleans music, from

marching brass to modern jazz, Freddie's first appearances with Preservation Hall date back to the mid-eighties when he toured and played with Percy Humphrey and Kid Sheik.

Joe Lastie, Jr. (drums)

Born and raised in the Lower Ninth Ward, Joe comes from a long line of family members equally dedicated to music and the church. Having played his first job with a rhythm section backing the Desire Community Choir, he would go on to study jazz with Willie Metcalf at the Dryades Street YMCA with classmates Wynton and Branford Marsalis. After a brief move with his family to Queens, New York, Joe returned to New Orleans where he was invited to substitute on drums at Preservation Hall in 1989. He's been a regular with the band ever since.

Calvin Johnson (reeds)

Calvin A. Johnson Jr (born November 21, 1985) is a saxophonist, composer and bandleader born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. Calvin's paternal grandfather, George Augustus "Son" Johnson, was a musician who led WPA bands during the Great Depression and taught musicians at the Grumswald School of Music in New Orleans. Son Johnson and Mrs. Johnson gave birth to 11 children, which included 5 boys and 6 girls. Of those 5 boys 4 were musicians, including the late clarinetist/saxophonist Ralph Johnson of the Preservation Hall Jazz Band.

Calvin sharpened his skills at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) and has vetted himself as a professional musician. His expansive touring history ranges from top local venues to international festivals performing with Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Harry Connick Jr., Irvin Mayfield & the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, and Big Sam's Funky Nation to name a few. His diverse musical career spans from Traditional, Contemporary, Brass Band and Avant-Garde Jazz; to Funk, and Hip Hop. Calvin Johnson does not simply play; he embodies the sentiment of the saxophone – strong, resonant, and a testament to the unique vibrancy of New Orleans' spirit.

Christopher Vaughn (piano, organ)

Christopher Vaughn is the musical heir to the late and great gospel organist and vocalist Leon Vaughn and found his way to Preservation Hall through his cousin, the drummer Joe Lastie. A performer since the age of 13, Chris has regularly performed at a number of churches around New Orleans including New Saint Mark, St. Paul, and is currently the Minister of Music at First Evangelist Church in Central City, New Orleans. In addition to performing in spiritual settings, Mr. Vaughn traditionally performs with Little Zion Baptist Church Choir at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and alongside the Preservation Hall Legacy Band.

For more information, please visit www.cami.com.