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**XAVIER UNIVERSITY TO HOST A JAM SESSION ENTITLED:  
"THE SACRED AND THE SINFUL: HYMNS AND BLUES IN NEW ORLEANS JAZZ"**

(New Orleans, La.) – Continuing with its Culture of New Orleans Series, Xavier University of Louisiana will host a musical and discussion, "The Sacred and the Sinful: Hymns and Blues in New Orleans Jaz," Sunday, March 12, at 2:00 p.m. in the University Center McCaffrey Ballroom (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), located at 4980 Dixon Street, The evening is presented and hosted by Dr. Michael White, Xavier's Keller Endowed Chair in the Humanities.

The afternoon will include a discussion and musical examples of black hymns and blues and their influence on traditional New Orleans Jazz. The focus will be on the makeup of hymns and blues, and how their vocal effects and structures became an important part of the early jazz repertoire and sound. Also included will be examples of the earliest recorded hymns in the jazz style and their use in functions like jazz funerals, church processions and second line parades and concerts.

The following featured artists are scheduled to perform: Dr. Michael White and the Original Liberty Jazz Band, trumpeter Gregg Stafford and singer Cynthia Girtley.

The event is free and open to the public.

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**Culture of New Orleans Series**

Xavier's Culture of New Orleans series was founded in 2001 by Xavier University Keller Endowed Chair in the Humanities, Dr. Michael White. Its purpose is to present various aspects of authentic New Orleans culture, featuring community practitioners, scholars and participants. Since its founding, the series has presented over two dozen programs, which have always been free and open to the public. Each event is designed to be a unique experience that is both informative and entertaining.

**About Xavier University of Louisiana**

Xavier University of Louisiana founded by Saint Katherine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in 1925 is the only historically Black and Catholic university in the Western Hemisphere. It is a private, liberal-arts based, co-educational institution offering 40 undergraduate majors, five master's degree programs, and a doctor of pharmacy program.