



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 6, 2008
CONTACT: Margaret Pitcher, Blue Bear School of Music
415.816.1945 :: mp@bluebearmusic.org

BLUE BEAR BANDS ROCK CAFE DU NORD FROM JUNE 29 THROUGH JULY 2
Students, Faculty and Staff Perform, Proceeds Benefit San Francisco's Original School of Rock

Blue Bear School of Music presents

Blue Bear Band Showcases

Sunday, June 29, 2008

Monday, June 30, 2008

Tuesday, July 1, 2008

Wednesday, July 2, 2008

Cafe Du Nord

2174 Market St. (near 15th and Sanchez)

San Francisco, CA 94114

415.861.5016

cafedunord.com

Doors 6:30PM/Show 7:30PM

All ages welcome

Tickets: \$12 - \$20 sliding scale (adv/door)

Buy tickets on: bluebearmusic.org . cafedunord.com . ticketweb.com

Proceeds benefit Blue Bear School of Music

*Two stages featuring rock, blues, jazz, soul/R&B and '80s pop bands
plus jazz vocals, songwriters, acoustic and solo performances*

Band schedule on: bluebearmusic.org

Full dinner menu available

Full cocktail bar for 21+

San Francisco, CA – When they enrolled in Band Workshops, many **Blue Bear School of Music** students wondered what it's like to actually play in a band. They'll find out first-hand when they take the stage at **Cafe Du Nord** at the **Blue Bear Band Showcases**, held from **Sunday, June 29 through Wednesday, July 2, 2008**.

Blue Bear Band Workshops are student bands that are organized by the school and feature adult musicians ranging in age from early 20s to late 40s. They rehearse with a professional musician who coaches the band in group playing and arrangement. For 10 weeks the aspiring musicians rehearse a set which they then perform live in a San Francisco club at the end of the class session. The shows are always lively, and **proceeds help support Blue Bear's nonprofit mission to make music education fun and affordable for anyone who is motivated to play or sing or craft a song.**

Once again, Blue Bear is very pleased to host its quarterly Band Showcases at Cafe Du Nord. Many nationally renowned artists play at this landmark San Francisco venue, so these showcases are an especially wonderful performance opportunity for the school's students - some of whom will be playing onstage for the first time.

During the four-night run, **12 student bands ranging from rock and blues to jazz to soul and R&B to pop** will perform on the main stage. Blue Bear's Executive Director and Program Director are among those performing with the student bands. Plus each night, a **Blue Bear faculty/staff band headlines** the main stage: **Bottoms Up** on Sunday, **The New Up** on Monday, **Crowsong** on Tuesday, and **Guitarmageddon** on Wednesday. The showcases will again feature a second stage, the "lounge stage," with performances by **jazz vocals and songwriters classes, acoustic acts and individual students, teachers and staff**. The shows are open to all ages and Cafe Du Nord offers a full menu. All are welcome to enjoy four fun-filled evenings of music, dinner, drinks and dancing at this special showcase and fundraiser. For more information on the event, including the nightly Band Showcase schedule, please visit bluebearmusic.org.

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Blue Bear Band Workshop teachers:

Steve Kirk has played in and written for progressive rock, jazz, alternative and swing bands, is a long standing member of the Club Foot Orchestra and has composed music for video games, TV, film and radio. Berklee grad **Sean Leahy** has toured the U.S. and Europe with Kofy Brown, Red Archibald, Marginal Prophets, Boomshanka, Four Year Bender and London Street, and is releasing his first solo album in 2008. Bandleader, guitarist, singer and showman **Johnny Nitro** is a regular in San Francisco clubs, has played with Charlie Musselwhite and written songs for Albert Collins. Blue Bear alumnus **Jim Peterson** graduated from Berklee, recorded and toured with world beat band Mumbo Gumbo for more than a decade, and now performs in the U.S. and Europe with renowned bandleaders Mitch Woods and Steve Lucky. Blue Bear alumnus **Mark Schuh** has also studied music at the University of Wisconsin, City College of San Francisco and the Berkeley Jazz School, plays in "live jukebox" band Suite Love Express and his original band The Shim Sham Rebellion. Bammy-Award-winning singer and guitarist **Bill Spooner** was founder and principal songwriter of the legendary Tubes, and actively performs in the Bay Area's best dives and bars.

About Blue Bear School of Music:

Blue Bear School of Music is San Francisco's leading destination for aspiring musicians of all ages and all skill levels who want to enjoy learning and playing **rock, blues, jazz, folk, pop** and other styles of music. A nonprofit organization founded in 1971, Blue Bear is a place where learning and playing music is fun and affordable, where people come together who love music, and where each student's unique talents and goals are recognized and supported. Blue Bear's nonprofit mission to provide superior, affordable music education to aspiring musicians of all ages and skill levels is supported in part through its loyal members, volunteers, sponsors and donors. Blue Bear's teachers are successful professional musicians and passionate educators whose performance, songwriting and recording credits include Bonnie Raitt, Metallica, Huey Lewis and the News, Third Eye Blind, Carlos Santana, The Tubes, Billy Idol, Norah Jones, Counting Crows, Belinda Carlyle, The Sons of Champlin, Albert Collins, Charlie Musselwhite, Bobby McFerrin and countless other Bay Area-based artists. For more information on Blue Bear School of Music, please visit bluebearmusic.org or call 415.673.3600.

About Blue Bear Presents:

Blue Bear Presents serves as an additional avenue to showcase the talented musicians and bands affiliated with **Blue Bear School of Music**, and an important fundraiser that support the school's nonprofit mission to provide quality, affordable popular music education to aspiring musicians of all ages and skill levels. Past Blue Bear Presents events include:

- **Blue Bear Band Showcases** from **March 30 to April 2, 2008** at **Cafe Du Nord**
- **Blue Bear Live III** on **Friday, May 9, 2008** at the **Great American Music Hall** in San Francisco, a sold-out concert and fundraiser featuring blues legend and 2008 Blue Bear Celebrity Scholarship Sponsor **Elvin Bishop**, 2008 Blues Music Award winner **Tommy Castro** and more
- Sold-out **Blue Bear Live II** at the Great American Music Hall in 2007, featuring Stax legend, Rock & Roll Hall of Famer, 2007 Grammy Lifetime Achievement recipient and 2008 Blue Bear Celebrity Scholarship Sponsor **Booker T. Jones**
- Sold-out **Blue Bear Live I** at The Independent in San Francisco in 2006, featuring 2007 Blue Bear Celebrity Scholarship Sponsor **Robben Ford** (Joni Mitchell, Miles Davis, George Harrison, Jimmy Witherspoon, *Musician Magazine's* "100 Greatest Guitarists of the 20th Century")
- Master Class with Booker T. Jones
- Master Class with East Bay Ray of Dead Kennedys
- Master Class with Blue Bear alumnus Tal Morris of Creedence Clearwater Revisited
- Little Feat at The Independent

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