

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 14th 2015

WHAT: The 5th Annual Portland Mardi Gras Ball featuring Charmaine Neville

WHEN: Saturday, February 14th 2015 (Doors at 7:30 pm)

WHERE: Wonder Ballroom, 128 Northeast Russell Street, Portland, OR 97212

WHY: The only authentic Louisiana Mardi Gras experience within 2000 miles!

HOW MUCH: Tickets: \$25 - \$40.95 plus fees (available through Wonder Ballroom box office or Ticketfly – <http://www.ticketfly.com/venue/975>)

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Pomp, Circumstance & Soul!

The Mysti Krewe of Nimbus' 5th annual Mardi Gras Ball takes place on Saturday, February 14th at the Wonder Ballroom. The ball's theme, *Voodoo Valentine*, is a mash up that invites attendees to explore the intersection of love and Love Potion #9. For the first time, this year's ball will be graced with the presence of New Orleans musical royalty, as R&B powerhouse Charmaine Neville joins the entertainment lineup.

The annual ball is the highlight night for Mysti Krewe of Nimbus, a membership organization styled in the tradition of a New Orleans' "social and pleasure club." The group's 100+ members range from native Oregonians to Gulf Coast transplants, bonded by their love and appreciation of the culture, food, and music of the region. The Krewe's dedicated mission is celebrating that rich cultural heritage ...and, having a kick-ass time when they do.

It will be a veritable New Orleans musical summit when Charmaine Neville takes the stage with native son and saxophonist **Reggie Houston and Crescent City Connection**. Charmaine, daughter of saxophonist Charles Neville, represents the 3rd generation of a dynasty that has kept faith with the musical traditions of Mardi Gras and New Orleans for more than seven decades. An established artist in her own right, Charmaine performs around the world, electrifying crowds with a powerful, soul-drenched voice and non-stop energy. She brings with her a soul-deep connection to the spirit of Mardi Gras and *laissez les bons temps rouler!*

Also on hand is Portland's own **Too Loose Zydeco Band** doing its part to keep the dance floor rocking. The evening kicks off with a second line parade led by **Transcendental Brass Band**, followed by the **Northside Skull & Bones Gang**. Together, they take the crowd all the way to the streets of New Orleans' 9th Ward for an authentic Mardi Gras Indian experience.

A ticket to the ball also includes a light taste of Louisiana cuisine provided by Porter's Catering. This year's menu will include chicken and sausage gumbo, vegetarian red beans and rice, corn bread, potato salad, a salad bar and King Cake. For an additional \$10.95, the "lagniappe" ticket adds a Louisiana-style boiled "peel and eat" shrimp bar.

And, yes, there will be beads. Lots of beads!

(Details continue on next page.)

Lagniappe (a little something extra)

- 21 and over only
- Full cash bar
- Light taste of Louisiana cuisine included from Porter's Catering
- Fresh Louisiana-style, you-peel shrimp available for an additional fee (\$10.95)
- Plenty of traditional Louisiana King Cake
- Costume contest & prizes (costumes encouraged, but not required)
- See the crowning of the new 2015 King and Queen of the Mardi Gras Ball

About the Krewe

The Mysti Krewe of Nimbus brings Louisiana Mardi Gras culture and traditions to the Pacific Northwest via:

- The Annual Mardi Gras Ball
- Mardi Gras Day Parade on Mississippi Ave (on February 17th 2015)
- Second Line Parades at the Safeway Waterfront Blues Fest and Bite of Oregon
- An award-winning Rose Festival Starlight Parade float.



The inspiration for the Krewe began with Louisiana natives Steve and Jane-Clair Kerin. Transplanted to Portland, they had hoped to see the kind of Fat Tuesday celebrations they were used to at home, but all they found were drink specials in local bars. So, they gathered other Louisiana transplants and their friends, and launched the **Mysti Krewe of Nimbus** with the goal of bringing some Louisiana-style Carnival mojo to the Rose City.

A little Mardi Gras history:

Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, is the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season in the Catholic calendar. The idea of Carnival, which culminates with Mardi Gras, is to have as much fun as possible in the weeks preceding Lent, the 40-day period of fasting and reflection before Easter. This festival has its roots in various pagan celebrations of spring, some dating back 5,000 years. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII made it a Christian holiday (guess "Pope G" liked to party, too). People in New Orleans and Louisiana have been celebrating Mardi Gras since the 1700s.

Portland, it's time to join the fun!

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