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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Louisiana Humanities Center  
"Professors" piano night series with Ronald Markham**

**WHO: Jazz piano series and interviews with local music artists**

**WHAT: "Professors" piano night series at La. Humanities Center**

**WHEN: Wednesday, March 11 at 7 pm**

**WHERE: 938 Lafayette Street, New Orleans, LA 70113**

**NEW ORLEANS** -- In the vibrant musical history of New Orleans, there is no more vital strand than the piano player tradition. From Gottschalk to Jelly Roll, Fess to Harry Connick, Jr., the city's great pianists have shaped the sound and image of the city, defining its style while carrying on its collective memory. The "Professors" series is dedicated to the celebration and exploration of the tradition in its present forms and personalities.

The piano nights at the LHC will consist of two sets by local piano players. Between sets, renowned documentarian and WWOZ DJ David Kunian will interview these modern day professors in a conversation about their backgrounds, influences, and insights into the New Orleans piano style. A short reception will follow the second set.

The series continues on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm with Ronald Markham. Markham is President & CEO of the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, one of New Orleans' most promising organizations dedicated to the performance and celebration of authentic New Orleans jazz. He has performed extensively with trumpeter Irvin Mayfield, Los Hombres Calientes, and performed sacred jazz in New Orleans churches. The "Professors" series will give audience members a chance to hear from him about his life as a piano player in New Orleans. "Ronald Markham's piano trills conjured up the spirits of James Booker and Jelly Roll Morton." [Indyweek.com](http://Indyweek.com).

Admission is \$5 and doors open at 6:45 pm. To make reservations or for press inquiries, contact Brian Boyles at 504.620.2632 or [boyles@leh.org](mailto:boyles@leh.org)

**About the LHC:**

Located at 938 Lafayette Street in the Central Business District, the LHC is the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities' state-of-the art learning center and meeting facility. Consisting of the Patrick F. Taylor Auditorium and several smaller event spaces, as well as an extensive collection of artwork from John T. Scott, the LHC seeks to serve as a nexus for non-profits and cultural organizations of New Orleans. For more information and booking, contact Brian Boyles at 504.620.2632 or [boyles@leh.org](mailto:boyles@leh.org).

**About the LEH:**

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities' mission is to provide all Louisianans with access to and an appreciation of their own rich, shared and diverse historical, literary and cultural heritage through grant-supported outreach programs, family literacy and adult reading initiatives, teacher professional development institutes, publications, film and radio documentaries, museum exhibitions, cultural tourism, public lectures, library projects, and other public humanities programming.

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