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LINK STRYJEWSKI FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES DETAILS FOR 3rd ANNUAL BAL MASQUÉ

Haitian Band RAM to Headline Carnival Celebration

Attached Photography Cut Lines:

(1) RAM Creator Richard Auguste Morse with Chef Donald Link on Guitar in Haiti.

(2 & 3) Musicians from RAM during a recent trip Chef Donald Link took to Haiti.

Additional Photography and Media Center:

<https://www.balmasque.linkstryjewski.org/images/>

New Orleans, Louisiana – The Link Stryjewski Foundation is excited to announce that it has secured the wildly popular Haitian band RAM to headline the 3rd Annual Bal Masqué, set for the weekend of January 19th and 20th, 2018 in its new location at The Sugar Mill in New Orleans. The celebration of Caribbean, Cajun and New Orleans Carnival will feature RAM, a drum-roots-driven powerhouse band from Port-au-Prince, Haiti. RAM will be joined by Lost Bayou Ramblers, Cha Wa, Roots of Music and other to-be-announced entertainment. “I’m so excited to bring RAM to New Orleans for this event. I saw them perform in Haiti when I was there doing some culinary research last summer, and they blew me away,” states Chef Donald Link, Co-Founder of the Link Stryjewski Foundation with Chef Stephen Stryjewski. “Our guests are going to feel like they are part of our authentic carnival celebration.” In addition to Bal Masqué, the Link Stryjewski Foundation presents its Chefs’ Dinner with celebrity chef Mario Batali, retuning for a third year. The limited seating dinner will be hosted by Calcasieu on Friday, January 19th, with a four-course menu prepared by Chef Batali alongside chefs Link and Stryjewski. Specific details about the culinary and cocktail offerings at Bal Masqué, and the celebrity chefs presenting them, will be released at a later date.

RAM’s ancient, folkloric polyrhythms intertwine harmoniously with rock guitar riffs and swinging Caribbean keyboard melodies. They have been performing all over the world for more than 25 years. Lost Bayou Ramblers, formed in 1999, are a perversely progressive band rooted in Cajun traditions. They stand at the crosscurrents of Louisiana culture by inhabiting the gray area between Cajun and Creole, convention and innovation. Cha Wa, the iconic Mardi Gras Indian funk band, is known for combining two of New Orleans’ best traditions, Mardi Gras Indians and street level funk music. Roots of Music empowers New Orleans youth through music education, academic support, and mentorship, while preserving and promoting the unique musical heritage of our city. In addition to the musical entertainment, New Orleans burlesque icon Trixie Minx and the Merry Antoinettes Mardi Gras krewe have been invited to bring their versions of carnival fun.

Bal Masqué 2018 ticket options offer substantial savings over previous years. Individual general admission tickets are only \$300 per person or you can opt for VIP reserved seating for \$500. If you're planning on bringing your friends, you can purchase a reserved table for ten guests for \$5,000. This year, Bal Masqué is also offering weekend packages that include seats at the Chefs’ Dinner on Friday, January 19th and VIP seats at the Bal Masqué—\$10,000 for a table of ten, or a single ticket weekend package for \$1,000. Tickets to the Chefs’ Dinner are available exclusively as part of a Bal Masqué weekend package.

The Link Stryjewski Foundation was created to address the persistent cycle of violence and poverty, as well as the lack of quality education and job training opportunities available to young people in New Orleans. The Link Stryjewski Foundation provides support to organizations that directly work to end the cycles of violence and poverty that affect the lives of New Orleans children.

To purchase tickets, or find out more information about the Bal Masqué and the Link Stryjewski Foundation, please visit <https://www.balmasque.linkstryjewski.org>. To learn more about RAM, visit their YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/21wmorse>.

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