



City of Slidell

Dept. of Cultural & Public Affairs • Press Release for Immediate Release

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September 29, 2008

Penny Lane is in Our Ears and in Our Park



Beatlemania is coming to Slidell.

The City of Slidell's *Bayou Jam* concert series continues on Sunday, Oct. 12, with a performance by the world renowned Beatles tribute band Penny Lane from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Heritage Park. Admission is free.

Prepare to take a journey back in time. The date is February 9, 1964. Something is about to happen that has never occurred in the history of American television. It's a Sunday night, and you, along with 73 million other television viewers, have tuned in to *The Ed Sullivan Show* to see John, Paul, George and Ringo, four lads from Liverpool, change the course of music forever. From their

famous *Ed Sullivan* appearance, to the Shea Stadium concert, up to the "Let It Be" album, Penny Lane will take you back in time on a nostalgic journey by recreating the music and the magic of the Beatles.

Penny Lane was formed in 1980 by a group of four lads who loved to perform and loved the Beatles. 28 years later, they are still performing the music they love. Making up the faux fab four are Walter "John" Gonzalez on rhythm guitar, piano, keyboards, harmonica and vocals; Donnie "Paul" Bascle on vocals and bass; Paul "George" Micelli on lead guitar and vocals and Gary "Ringo" Bascle on vocals and drums.

Penny Lane uses the same vintage guitars and amplifiers that the Beatles used to create the authentic sound of the band. From their original costumes to their on-stage humor, Penny Lane reproduces the atmosphere of an authentic Beatles concert. What results is a remarkable tribute to the original fab four that truly is a Magical Mystery Tour.

Online fab four fanatics recently voted Penny Lane the #1 Beatles tribute band *anywhere*. The band also received the honor of being selected as the official United States-based Beatles' tribute band to perform at the Matthews Street Beatles Festival in Liverpool, England, where they wowed the festival's crowds. They have also toured in London and Hamburg, Germany. Though they enjoyed

their international concerts, they're delighted to be back home in Louisiana and performing at *Bayou Jam*.

Bayou Jam is now in its sixth season. The music series has become a great way for family and friends to come together and celebrate their love of music and community spirit. The spring and fall concert series offers free admission and are held on Sundays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Heritage Park. Concert-goers are invited to bring their chairs, blankets, ice chests and picnic baskets or enjoy food, drinks and ice cream treats available for a nominal charge from A Touch of Italy Café and Baskin Robbins. Please note that park regulations prohibit pets in the park as well as the use of skateboards, scooters, barbeque grills and glass items.

The Oct. 12 *Bayou Jam* concert is dedicated to all emergency first responders, including policemen, firemen, medical personnel and military. The concert will follow the Patriot Day 9/11 Memorial Ceremony at 5 p.m. in Heritage Park. The ceremony was originally scheduled for Sept. 11, but was postponed because of inclement weather caused as Hurricane Ike moved across the Gulf of Mexico.

The fall *Bayou Jam* concert series concludes on Oct. 26 with the city's annual Halloween Bash featuring Vince Vance and the Valiants. Kids of all ages are encouraged to come dressed in costume and invited to stay after the concert for free trick-or-treating, with candy provided by participating East St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce businesses.

Bayou Jam is brought to you by the City of Slidell's Department of Cultural & Public Affairs and its 2008 – 2009 Cultural Season sponsors, including NorthShore Regional Medical Center; Slidell Memorial Hospital; Whitney Bank; Living Magazine; CLECO Power, LLC; Sophisticated Woman Magazine; Baker Sales, Inc.; Mary & Dr. Dale MacCurdy; Creative Picture Framing Inc. & Art Gallery; East St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce; Hampton Inn of Slidell; The Purple Armadillo; Ronnie Kole Foundation; Silver Slipper Casino; Sizeler Architects; Walden Media Productions, LLC; Bargains Plus!/Postal Plus; Baskin Robbins/Coy & Donna Faucheux; David Carollo, Attorney-at-Law; Cross Gates Athletic Club; Eric & Mary DuBuisson; Kathryn & Company's A Touch of Italy Café; Lowry-Dunham, Case & Vivien; and Chris & Ed Massett.

The concert series is produced by the city's Department of Cultural & Public Affairs with the assistance of the departments of Recreation and Public Operations and the Slidell Police Department.

For more information about the *Bayou Jam* concerts, please call (985) 646-4375 or visit the city's websites at www.slidell.la.us and blog.nola.com/slidell. For more information about Penny Lane, please visit www.beatlespennylane.com.