

FOCUS

Fats Domino Shares Stage, New Home

Coming back from Katrina disaster

(AP) — Fats Domino tipped his hat to thousands of cheering fans, briefly appearing on stage during the final day of New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Fest Sunday. But the headliner did not perform.

"He wasn't feeling well, so we took him to the doctor. He's OK, but he doesn't feel up to performing," longtime friend Haydee Ellis said.

Just a few days earlier, sitting at a keyboard in the bedroom of his post-Katrina home in the New Orleans suburb of Harvey, La., a smiling Domino joked, laughed and tenderly sang to a handful of close friends.

"Never thought my heart could be so yearny ... Gotta take that sentimental journey, sentimental journey home," he sang Thursday afternoon, swaying gently as long-time friend Herbert Hardesty, who's shared the stage with Domino for 50-plus years, chimed in.

In his spacious new home in a gated community, Domino seemed most comfortable in his bedroom. Though large with high ceilings and filled mostly with new furniture, the room had personal touches and a cozy feel. Friends plopped on his king-size, four-poster bed, the sheets and blankets unmade.

"Herb's making me a book," Domino said, noting that Hardesty has photos of Domino with Nat "King" Cole and other celebrities - treasures to a man who's experienced so much loss.

The Mississippi River now divides Domino's newfound home from the one he was forced to flee when Katrina flooded 80 percent of the city. He lived for a time in a New Orleans hotel. Harvey isn't home, Domino says, but "it's close enough."

As he chatted with friends - among them Hardesty, Hardesty's

wife and daughter Adonica Domino, one of his eight children - Domino pointed out the few pieces of salvaged furniture among the new,

Noticeably thinner since being evacuated from the house, Domino said the past few months haven't been easy. He's still trying to get

except for two framed gold records - one for "Rosemary," the other for "Blue Monday." The records were refurbished by the Louisiana State Museum. Another 23 gold albums and eight platinum albums are being reissued to replace the ones destroyed in the flood.

Domino's classic New Orleans R&B sound and relaxed piano style led him to sell more records than any other black musician of the 1950s. His long list of national hits, mostly spanning from the mid '50s to the early '60s, includes "Ain't That a Shame," "Blueberry Hill," "Whole Lotta Loving" and "Blue Monday."

Grounded in his hometown, hits like "Walking to New Orleans" and "Jambalaya" resonate with New Orleans natives. Jazz Fest producer Quint Davis has said he can't think of a better way to close this year's festival than with a performance by Fats.

Sitting at the new piano on a black leather bench, tapping the keys, Domino said it's good to have a piano in the house again. Since being evacuated, he'd been playing on a keyboard he bought while on hiatus in Texas.

"I always had a piano," he said. "All of them sound good to me."

Back in March, a recovery crew with the Louisiana State Museum pulled an electric Wurlitzer keyboard and what was left of his black Steinway baby grand and white Steinway grand from Domino's flooded home. They'll be refurbished and returned to the family, though they may not be playable. For now, Domino is loaning the baby grand to the museum for inclusion in its traveling exhibit about hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Sipping from a bottle of Heineken



Hall of Fame performer Fats Domino poses for a photograph at his new post-Katrina home in Harvey, La.

including chairs that surrounded an upstairs bar in the Ninth Ward home he shared with his wife of almost 60 years, Rosemary. They'd lived in the house since 1960.

situated in his new home, still moving furniture around.

In one room sits a black baby grand donated by the Baldwin piano company. The walls are empty

between songs, Domino lulled take me where I belong, where friends with emotional verses of hearts have been broken with a kiss "Valley of Tears": "I want you to and a song..."

A 2006 AINSWORTH IN THE CITY

(503) 284-8767

Ainsworth United Church of Christ
2941 NE Ainsworth St.
Portland, OR 97211

A three-day celebration hosted by the congregation of Ainsworth United Church of Christ (AUCC), whose activities include social response and action in the greater Portland area, support for community issues, and promotion of interfaith understanding. Proceeds will support the mission and ministry of AUCC, as well as our community partner for 2006, Elders in Action. AUCC is also offering a special raffle for a three-night stay for two at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Friday, June 2 – Silent Auction, Hors D'Oeuvres and Dancing

When the sun goes down in Stump Town, we will gather at McMenamin's Edgefield, 2126 S.W. Halsey in Troutdale. From 6:30 to 10:30 p.m., we will enjoy a plethora of hors d'oeuvres, have great fun with our silent auction, Live music -featuring Janice Scroggins!-dancing. There will be something for everyone's taste. Tickets are available now: \$35 per person (\$10.50 of which is tax-deductible donation). Call the church as soon as possible at (503) 284-8767.

Saturday, June 3 – Family Festival

Saturday marks the Fourth Annual Family Festival, featuring food, beverages, an inflatable "Bounce House," a clown, face painting, a Portland Fire Truck; and a jewelry, plant and book sale. Festivities run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. right next to the church on a closed N.E. 30th Ave.

Sunday, June 4 –

Celebration Worship Service and Birthday Party

When you are as welcoming as AUCC, the worship service offers inspiration, jubilation and the Word of God brought to you by people of profound faith, witness and service. This morning, Ainsworth's Pastor Lynne Smouse Lopez's sermon topic will be "Rejoicing in the Gift of God's Spirit." Rooted in AUCC's traditional Four Seasons Birthday Celebration, the after-church activity will honor and celebrate everybody's birthday with scrumptious food, cakes, punch and beverages. The drawing for the Las Vegas trip will be done at the Four Seasons Birthday Celebration. The winner of the drawing will receive a three night stay at the Bellagio Hotel for two adults air fare included.

A Multi-Racial, Multi-Cultural, Open and Affirming Church

Reaching for Stardom

Radiant Theater presents the rock opera "Tommy" at 8 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays beginning Thursday, May 11 at Liberty Hall, 311 N. Ivy. The production is scheduled through June 10, with the exception of Friday, May 19.

The Who's "Tommy" opened on Broadway in 1993 and is a whirlwind story of a young boy who reaches stardom from a place of pain and discovers that what he really wants is to be just like everyone else. Songs include Pinball Wizard, the vivacious Acid Queen, Listening to You, the Amazing Journey, the sexy Sensation and of course, "I'm free."

Radiant Theater is the local production company that brought Port-



Tiger Fifer is the gypsy in the rock opera 'Tommy' coming to Liberty Hall, 311 N. Ivy.

land the powerhouse experience of "Hair," the controversial "Jesus Christ Superstar," the innovative "Waiting for Godot" and the Drammy-award winning masked comedy "Scapin."

CAJUN THEATER for Kids



Melanya Helene and Anet Ris-Kelman star in the Cajun folk tale 'Buzzard & Chicken Hawk.'

A multicultural play "Buzzard and Chicken Hawk," is presented this month by Play After Play Interactive Theater for Kids at the Brooklyn Bay, 1825 S.E. Franklin, Bay K.

The comical story is a Cajun folk tale, filled with lively music and physical performances that will captivate children and adults alike. After the play, children are invited to interact with the actors one-on-one.

Company artistic director Melanya Helene has been performing and teaching theater to children for over 10 years. She is dedicated to providing quality live theater for

families that is affordable enough to attend regularly. The play is scheduled each Saturday this month at 10 a.m. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. For reservations, call 503-772-4005.



"As far as I'm concerned, blues and jazz are the great American contributions to music" Edgar Winter

89.1 www.kmhd.fm
When you pledge your financial support you show us that jazz and blues are important to you and to your community

BLUES SUPERSTAR

BOBBY "BLUE" BLAND

WED. MAY 17

ALADDIN THEATER

SE MILWAUKIE @ POWELL • PHONE 503-233-1994 www.aladdin-theater.com
TICKETS AT THE ALADDIN BOX OFFICE & ALL TICKETMASTER OUTLETS OR CHARGE-BY-PHONE 503-224-4400

SPYRO GYRA

WEDNESDAY JUNE 14