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Neville Brothers

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THE NEVILLE BROTHERS
April 1st, 2006

Tonight's Concert
is sponsored by
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The Illinois Arts Council
THE NEVILLE BROTHERS

Aaron Neville (vocals, percussion)
Art Neville (vocals, Hammond B3 organ, keys)
Cyril Neville (vocals, percussion)
Charles Neville (vocals, tenor sax, flute)
with Ivan Neville (vocals keyboards)

Governors State University - April 1st, 2006

“50,000 WATTS OF PURE FUNK!”

NEVILLES RELEASE THE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL
‘WALKIN’ IN THE SHADOW OF LIFE’
(NEVILLENATION/BACK PORCH/EMI)

Songs dealing with heritage, music biz turmoil, drugs, identity, war and state of the nation.

Faced with possible paralysis after back surgery in October 2001, band leader and eldest brother Art Neville (nicknamed “Poppa Funk”) realized that he wasn’t living life to the fullest. Art told his brothers, “I feel like I’ve been walkin’ in the shadow of life” during his recovery. His comment, along with inspiration from Aaron Neville’s private poetry/journal entries, triggered a much-needed reunion that lead to this spirited October 19 release.

In the title track, the Neville Brothers sing, “No second chance when your ass is grass/and about the money, you can’t take your paper when you meet your maker/Watchin’ everything just pass you by/ blamin’ everyone else but you ain’t never tried/stallin’ every little chance you get/never doin’ nothin’ about it until there ain’t no time left.”

‘Walkin’ in the Shadow of Life’ (NevilleNation/BackPorch/EMI) reflects the Neville Brothers’ life experiences, including growing up in one of the toughest New Orleans neighborhoods, the thirteenth ward, surviving the music industry machine, and overcoming their struggles with drugs. The breakbeat-infused, thirteen-track masterpiece revives the trademark Neville Brothers sound. ‘Walkin’ in the Shadow of Life’ revisits the spirit of their 1989 million-selling ‘Yellow Moon’ record not only by continuing to tell their story, but also by returning to their classic funk foundation.

Several tracks, such as “Streets Are Callin’,” “Your Life (Fallen Soldiers),” and “Carry the Torch” discuss life on the street. Growing up in the Calliope projects of New Orleans and struggling with gangs and drugs, the band members have come out strong; they are all currently sober and completely focused on music.

Ending the band’s five-year hiatus from recording, ‘Walkin’ in the Shadow of Life’ marks the welcome return of the group’s smoldering funk and R&B. The record features the classic Neville lineup — Aaron Neville (vocals, percussion), Art Neville (vocals, Hammond B3 organ, keys), Cyril Neville (vocals, percussion) and Charles Neville (vocals, tenor sax, flute) — along with Aaron’s son Ivan Neville on keys and Art’s son Ian on guitar. ‘Walkin” also includes funky a cover of the Temptations’ “Ball of Confusion,” a unique, lullaby like version of The Melodians reggae classic “The Rivers of Babylon,” and the stirring “Kingdom Come” which was written by Cyril Neville with Bono of U2.