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DAVID NEWMAN TO PERFORM AT NCCU JAZZ FEST

DURHAM, N.C. – Saxophone player David “Fathead” Newman, also known as the “Texas Tenor,” will perform Saturday, April 19, 2008, at North Carolina Central University. Newman’s performance will take place at 8:00 p.m., in the B.N. Duke Auditorium, as part of the 18th Annual NCCU Jazz Festival and the Second Annual African American Jazz Caucus Research Institute (NAJRI) Conference.

Newman received a scholarship to Jarvis Christian College where he studied theology and music. After two years of college, he decided to tour full time with Charlie Parker's mentor, Buster Smith.

On one of those tours, Newman met Ray Charles who asked him to join his group. In 1954, Newman began a 12-year association with the Ray Charles Band. Newman began as the baritone saxophone player but soon became Charles’ star tenor sax soloist. In 1959, Newman recorded his first album as the lead titled, *Fathead: Ray Charles Presents 'Fathead'* on Atlantic records. Included on this album was Newman's dramatic and now famous rendition of “Hard Times.”

As a studio musician, Newman worked on recording projects with such artists as Aretha Franklin, Hank Crawford, Aaron Neville and Herbie Mann during "The Family of Mann" era. He also recorded several mainstream jazz albums for the Muse label with artists like Cedar Walton, Jimmy Cobb, Buster Williams, and Louis Hayes.

The late nineties brought Newman to the High Note label where he has recorded six successful CDs. The most recent, *I Remember Brother Ray* was released in January 2005, and went to number one as “the most played jazz album nationwide.”

Newman has appeared on many television shows including Saturday Night Live, David Sanborn's Night Music, and the David Letterman Show. He also appeared in Robert Altman's film Kansas City and took part in a national tour with the Kansas City Orchestra for Verve Records.

Tickets are on sale now. For conference packages or individual tickets, call NCCU Tickets at 919-530-5170 or go to: www.najri.org

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Photo: D_Newman_Gene_Martin_Photo_2.jpg - Courtesy of Gene Martin/High Note Records