TICKETS FOR 8TH ANNUAL MOTOR CITY BLUES & BOOGIE WOOGIE
FESTIVAL ON SALE FRIDAY 8/25

DaimlerChrysler presents the 8th Annual Motor City Blues & Boogie Woogie Festival on Friday October 20 and Saturday October 21 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre. Doors both nights are at 7:30, and shows start at 8pm.

Tickets are available from tickets.com (1-800-919-6272), the Royal Oak Music Theatre box office, and from the AMRF directly. Prices are $25 for a single night, $20 for Students and AMRF members. (Members must purchase tickets directly from us to get the discount. Call 248-478-2525, or toll free 866-270-5141. A two night pass is $40.

Members and sponsors are invited to attend a "preglow" reception at 7pm each night. In addition to mingling with like minded music lovers and some of our performers while enjoying munchies and cocktails, you'll have a chance to stake out the best seats in the house before doors open to the general public. The membership fee is only $15 a year, and you'll get discounts on tickets, DVDs, and other merchandise.

Friday night's program will start with a performance by the Calvin Cooke Band. Calvin is one of the foremost practitioners of "Sacred Steel" guitar as played in the House of God church, and is Robert Randolph's mentor. The music has deep but unacknowledged roots in the blues because, even if the it isn't the Devil's music, it is certainly created in the Devil's Workshop. As we used to say about great soul music, Calvin Cooke's music will "take you right to church."

Next, W.C. Handy nominee and Detroit Music Award winner, drummer, bandleader, promoter, producer, and Detroit living legend R.J. Spangler will direct an expanded version of RJ's Rhytm Rockers (with horns) backing Detroit Blues Legends Alberta Adams, Detroit's Queen of the Blues; guitarist Johnnie Bassett, cofounder of Fortune Records' house band "The Bluenotes" in the 50's; and Stax recording star "Sir" Mack Rice. (Mack was "knighted" after a song he wrote was recorded by Wilson Picket and blew the top off the charts - a little ditty called, "Mustang Sally.")

Finally, one of Detroit's most popular bands, The Howling Diablos, will reassert their roots from the days when they came together as house band for the legendary Dearborn blues club Sully's.

Saturday night's program is one we've dreamed of for years, "Big Band Boogie Woogie." The big band is none other than The Paul Keller Orchestra. This 14 piece big band (plus or minus a few) started as the Bird of Paradise Orchestra, and has played virtually every Monday night in Ann Arbor since 1989. Featured pianists will include Ann Arbor's Mr. B, reprising material he and Keller created for the phenomenal 1995 big band boogie woogie album Hallelujah Train (with some new twists); Detroit's legendary boogie woogie player Bob Seeley; and one of Detroit's great jazz pianists, Charles Boles.

The PKO will be augmented by the brilliant young clarinetist David Bennett, and our very special guest will be legendary tenor saxophonist Red Holloway. Red has played with everyone from Willie Dixon and B.B. King to Dexter Gordon and Lionel Hampton, garnering national acclaim in organist Jack McDuff's trio with guitarist George Benson in the 60's.

The performances and extensive interviews with the artists will be recorded, and the recordings turned into programs for national public television.

The Motor City Blues & Boogie Woogie Festival is a production of the American Music Research Foundation, a 501(c)(3) dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and documentation of American music. The festival is made possible in part by a grant from the DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund.