

KREWE OF



"Happy are they whom the Muses love."

Hesiod

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Immediate Release

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NEWS RELEASE

Krewe of Muses Commemorates 5th Anniversary - Unveils Spectacular New Hand-Decorated, Member Personalized "Glitter Shoes"

***Announces 2005 Honorary "Euterpe"
Charmaine Neville, Muse of Music & Flutes
and
Winner of Student-Designed
Muses Cup, Rashawn Williams***

New Orleans, LA – Today, at the Contemporary Arts Center, commemorating its 5th anniversary the Krewe of Muses unveiled spectacular new hand-decorated, personalized "Glitter Shoes."

The Krewe also announced the 2005 Honorary Muse, "Euterpe," Muse of Music and Flutes, Charmaine Neville, and the winner of the Krewe's annual student cup contest, 16-year-old Rashawn Williams, a student at L.E. Rabouin.

Krewe of Muse Captain Staci Rosenberg was on hand with Muse members to present the "Glitter Shoes." Rosenberg said, "In the short history of our organization we have become well known for our unique throws and this year's 5th anniversary is no exception with the addition of these fabulous, creative, member-personalized "Glitter Shoes."

The "Glitter Shoes" are actual shoes. The shoes are all varieties and types of women's shoes - classic pumps, sandals, mules, stilettos, wedges, etc. They are creatively decorated and personalized in color using glitter, sequins, feathers, flowers, lace, fabric piping and colorful trims. The "Gitter Shoes" reflect the personality of the Muse Krewe Member making them sure to be one of the most sought-after throws in all of Mardi Gras.

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Glitter Shoes/Cup Art/Honorary Muse

Charmaine Neville will be “Euterpe,” Muse of Music and Flutes. She was born into the third generation of New Orleans’ legendary musical Neville family. Charmaine has nonetheless worked hard to get where she is and make her music known as her own. As “Euterpe,” Ms. Neville will ride with the Krewe on parade night.

The design of L.E. Rabouin High School student, 16-year-old Rashawn Williams will appear on the Krewe of Muses cup throw with her depiction of the Muse of Music and Flutes. The cup design is printed on more than 80,000 cups, which will be thrown from the 25-float Muses parade on Wednesday February 2nd.

According to Krewe of Muses Captain Staci Rosenberg, the Krewe of Muses’ vision is to tap into and recognize the local artistic and cultural resources of the community and incorporate them into a Muses Mardi Gras tradition, making the entire community a part of the Krewe of Muses parade.

Rosenberg says, “The student cup art and the honorary muse projects are signature Muses activities that are popular with the community and everyone looks forward to participating.”

Rosenberg went on to say, “Art students anticipate the annual cup design competition and many groups and individuals have contacted us to offer nominations for the honorary muse in recognition of an outstanding and inspirational woman who has made a difference in our community. Our projects are fun and educational. Our ultimate goal is to contribute to the rich history of Mardi Gras.”

To Charmaine Neville all music is good music. Neville says, "I try to cover the whole spectrum and do just everything. I don't want to be stagnated and stuck in a rut...."

Her work has paid off - as one reviewer recently wrote, "Charmaine Neville is beginning to rival her father and uncles in terms of popularity in New Orleans."

She began her career backing up the Neville Brothers and went on to perform with the Survivors, a band whose alumni list includes Harry Connick Jr. and Bobby McFerrin. *Time Magazine* named Charmaine Neville, the best pair of lungs [in New Orleans], and stated that her “delightful scat-singing and good-humored blues ... had visitors dancing in the aisles at the Snug Harbor bar.”

In conjunction with the honorary Muse project, the Krewe is donating \$1,000 to the New Orleans Musicians' Clinic. The New Orleans Musicians' Clinic was founded in 1998 with the vital mission of providing access to primary and comprehensive health care for professional musicians and their families in the greater New Orleans metropolitan area.

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Glitter Shoes/Cup Art/Honorary Muse

With extensive volunteer support from medical professionals, lawyers, musicians, social workers, graphic designers, students and music lovers, the NOMC has developed a membership of more than 900 musicians and their families and has provided health services through more than 3200 patient encounters.

The cup design was selected from numerous middle and high school art student entries. To prepare students for the design competition representatives of the Muses Community Arts Committee distributed educational materials about the muses of Greek Mythology to the participating schools.

The Cup-Art and Honorary Muse projects are among several community-focused activities initiated by the Krewe of Muses throughout the year and during the Mardi Gras season. The five-year-old Muses organization has over 900 members and is the only all female organization that parades at night. The 25-float parade will take the traditional St. Charles Avenue route on Wednesday evening, February 2, 2005.