

Kick Off Summer at Aruba's Annual Soul Beach Music Festival This Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-30



NEW YORK, NY (May 11, 2011) Aruba is proud to announce the A-list lineup for the eleventh Annual Soul Beach Music Festival, taking place May 25-30, 2011. This year's festival offers live performances by Grammy Award-winning singers Jennifer Hudson and Chrisette Michele, as well as R&B supergroup Heads of State, which includes Bobby Brown, Ralph Tresvant and Johnny Gill.

The 2011 Soul Beach Music Festival falls over Memorial Day Weekend in Aruba's sun-kissed paradise, with five-days of power-packed events. Soul music fans from around the world can take part in nightclub festivities, sizzling beach parties and live concerts. This year's events will take place at Joe Laveist Sport Park in San Nicolas, Aruba's second largest city, which boasts picturesque beaches and a main street promenade with local snack spots and souvenir shops.

The Soul Beach Music Festival creates an upbeat atmosphere all throughout the island, with visitors from all over the world joining a celebration of music, wonderful beaches and

plenty of parties," said Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, CEO of Aruba Tourism Authority.

The Soul Beach Music Festival's full schedule of events and ticket pricing information can be accessed at www.soulbeach.net. Specialized vacations to Aruba during the Soul Beach Music Festival can be booked through www.aruba.com.

For this year's festival, the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino is offering the "Catch the Rhythm, Feed Your Soul" package, which includes 30% off leisure rates, a welcome cocktail upon arrival, and a Soul Beach goody bag. The package is valid May 25 – 31, 2011 and can be booked with promotional code ER7.

About the Artists:

Known for her incredible voice, actress and recording artist, Jennifer Hudson first came to prominence in 2004 as one of the finalists on American Idol. She made her film debut in the 2006 film Dreamgirls, which won her several awards, including an Academy Award, a Golden Globe, a BAFTA Award, an NAACP Image Award and a Screen Actors Guild Award. In 2008, Hudson's debut album won her a Grammy Award and her recently released album I Remember Me debuted at number 2 on the Billboard 200.

Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter, Chrisette Michele will also be joining the lineup. With a style that incorporates a variety of musical genres, including rap, R&B and soul, Chrisette is best known for her songs "Be Ok" and "Epiphany." She has also been featured on several hip-hop albums including Jay-Z's Kingdom Come and Nas's Hip Hop is Dead and recently released her third album Let Freedom Reign in November 2010.

Former members of the R&B group New Edition, Bobby Brown, Ralph Tresvant and Johnny Gill joined forces to create the super-group Heads of State. According to Gill, the group's name is inspired by the original name for The Rat Pack. Heads of State has been touring together since 2008 and will make an

exciting appearance at the Soul Beach Music Festival. Together, these artists will participate in a one-of-a-kind musical festival on the pristine, white-sand beaches of Aruba. For more information about vacations in Aruba, please visit online at www.ARUBA.com or call 1.800.TO.ARUBA.

Throwback: New Edition - Mr. Telephone Man



In 1978 Michael Bivins, Ricky Bell and Bobby Brown all from the Roxbury section of Boston, Massachusetts started singing

together. By 1980 Ralph Tresvant and Ronnie DeVoe joined the group and local choreographer Brooke Payne name them New Edition. Former Jonzun Crew member and boy band impresario Maurice "The General" Starr discovered them at a talent show he ran and invited them to his recording studio. The results would be their 1983 debut album *Candy Girl* on Starr's Streetwise record label. Their sound immediately reminded the public of The Jackson 5 and they had hit songs "[Popcorn Love](#)," "[Jealous Girl](#)," "[Is This The End](#)" and "[Candy Girl](#)." But after going on their first tour they only received \$1.87 a piece for their work which led to a lawsuit against Starr who agreed to let them out of their contract. They signed a deal with MCA Records in 1984 and their second self-titled album was released in August of that year. Michael Sembello and Ray Parker, Jr. co-produced the album which reached the top ten position on the Billboard 200 and R&B/Hip-Hop charts. "[Cool It Now](#)" was the first hot single and the Parker penned "Mr. Telephone Man" was the second one that also secured their place as *the* male R&B group of the time. *All For Love* would come out the following year adding "[A Little Bit Of Love \(Is All It Takes\)](#)," "[Count Me Out](#)," and "[With You All The Way](#)" to their hits catalog. Management pressured them to vote Bobby Brown out of the group because of conduct issues in 1985. Brown started a solo career in 1986 and the group continued to have success including an appearance on the TV show *Knight Rider* and a cover of "[Earth Angel](#)" for the "Karate Kid II" soundtrack prompting an album of doo-wop songs *Under The Blue Moon*. Johnny Gill would join the group in time for the recording of their 1988 fifth album *Hearbreak* produced by Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis. Gill would co-lead vocals on their most commercially successful album that spawned five hits in "[You're Not My Kind Of Girl](#)," "[Can You Stand The Rain](#)," "[Crucial](#)," "[If It Isn't Love](#)," and "[N.E.Hearbreak](#)." That same year Bobby Brown began his solo New Jack Swing reign with his second album *Don't Be Cruel*. The project would become the biggest selling album of 1989 and earned him the title King Of R&B.

New Edition would splinter in 1990 with the formation of Bell, Biv and Devoe and solo albums from Ralph Tresvant and Johnny Gill. All of their efforts would achieve platinum status and later that year they would perform with Bobby Brown at the MTV Video Music Awards. It would be 1996 before they would release an album as group including Brown the multi-produced *Home Again*. ["Hit Me Off,"](#) ["I'm Still In Love With You,"](#) ["You Don't Have To Worry,"](#) and ["One More Day"](#) were welcomed by fans and the album debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 and R&B/Hip-Hop charts. In 2002 they joined the Bad Boy roster and one album 2004's *One Love*. ["Hot2nite"](#) would be the only single and it fell low on the charts. The group was not happy with Sean Combs's handling of their career and they left the label in 2005. Within the next couple of years they filmed a couple of concerts for future DVD release and in 2006 they announced the coming of a future album in 2009 to be produced by Jam and Lewis. This new project from the group has not materialized yet but Tresvant, Brown and Gill have been performing in their new group Heads Of State that they formed in 2008. The Heads tour has received positive reviews and an album is supposed to be released before the end of 2010.