

UCSD to present "Juke Joints & Jubilee", on November 5 at the Mandeville Auditorium

October 21, 1991

Contact: Ruth Baily, University Events Office, 534-4090 or Alixandra Williams, 534-3120

UCSD TO PRESENT "JUKE JOINTS & JUBILEE," BLUES, GOSPEL AND JUBA DANCE -- NOVEMBER 5

"Juke Joints & Jubilee" brings together the music of the house party, the roadhouse and the church in a national tour of blues, gospel and juba dance, at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, in the Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Tickets will be \$16 for general admission, \$14 for seniors and \$12 for students, and may be purchased at the UCSD Box Office (534-4559) and from TicketMaster outlets.

Featured in this event will be the Holmes Brothers; singer/pianist Fontella Bass; North Carolina blues man and juba dancer John Dee Holeman; and a cappella gospel quartet the Birmingham Sunlights, presenting a blend of secular and sacred sounds having their roots in the African-American tradition.

The performers assembled for the tour have never before appeared together. Sponsored primarily by the National Endowment for the Arts, the "Juke Joints & Jubilee" will provide an insight to a collage of images experienced by rural and urban black Americans of an earlier time--front porch blues at twilight, a country parlor with the rug rolled back, the flash of guitars in a smoke-filled juke joint--get down and boogie or stand up and testify.

The Holmes Brothers--bassist Sherman and guitarist Wendell-- performed together for three decades before hooking up with drummer "Popsy" Dixon in 1980. Ten years later, the Holmes Brothers have acquired "overnight" recognition with the release of their debut album, "In the Spirit." Featured with the Holmes Brothers touring band is Texan Gib Wharton on pedal steel guitar.

Fontella Bass has been performing for at least three decades and, in 1965, had a hit record with the now-soul-classic, "Rescue Me." She recently released a gospel album, "Promises."

The Birmingham Sunlights are a young gospel quartet from Alabama, organized in 1979 by music director/lead tenor James Alex Taylor, and include Steve and Barry Taylor, who sing baritone and bass, as well as Reginald "Ricky" Speights, baritone, and Wayne Williams tenor. The quartet recently returned from tours of Africa and the Caribbean.

John Dee Holeman's artistry embodies the music of the Piedmont, a region of low, rolling hills that lies between the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic coastal plain, extending from Virginia to Florida. His influence as a boy was Blind Boy Fuller. Raised on a farm, he made music at house parties and community work gatherings that were common in the country at the time. Holeman's juba dancing began during his boyhood. It is traditionally performed without music, accompanied only by a kind of body percussion called "patting juba," an ancient technique derived from West African heritage. Since 1976, Holeman has participated in many national tours and

festivals, including performances at Wolf Trap and Carnegie Hall. He was named a National Heritage Fellow in 1988, the highest honor an American traditional artist can receive.

This event is brought to San Diego by the UCSD University Events Office.

(October 21, 1991)