



presented by



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## Happy Birthday, Louis Armstrong!

### 2021 Satchmo SummerFest presented by Chevron

*Highlights included Live Streaming, Geauxing Green, and New Orleans Favorites Leave It All On the Stage!*

**NEW ORLEANS, LA (August 5, 2021)** – This past weekend, the 2021 Satchmo SummerFest presented by Chevron celebrated the life, legacy, and music of New Orleans' native son, Louis Armstrong, at the New Orleans Jazz Museum. Now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, the annual festival that quickly grew into a beloved summer tradition delivered two full days of live entertainment after a two-year hiatus from in-person performances. [Click here for highlights from the event](#)

Satchmo SummerFest presented by Chevron featured over 20 acts that gave moving performances of their original music and renditions of Louis Armstrong's classics. Fest-goers sang, danced, and swayed all weekend, showing how impactful artists like Armstrong are to the fabric of New Orleans. **The Roots of Music sponsored by Fidelity Bank** opened the festival on Saturday, July 31 with a street performance alongside the 400 block of Barracks. They were followed by a star-studded day of New Orleans' legendary performers, including **Lawrence Cotton** and **Wendell Brunious** on the **GE Stage** and **Preservation Brass** and **Charmaine Neville** at the **Fidelity Bank Stage**.

A week ahead of the Mayor of New Orleans instating a city-wide mask mandate for public indoor spaces, FQFI publicly enforced the same policy to provide attendees the safest experience. In addition to masks being required indoors, masking was strongly encouraged outdoors and in crowded areas. The festival also worked within a 75% maximum capacity outdoors and a 50% capacity indoors, added an overflow room and live streaming for **The Satchmo Legacy Stage in Honor of Joni Berry**, and reduced the number of food vendors to allow for more space for fans to social distance. Throughout the course of the weekend, the small but mighty event was visited by over 4,000 guests.

While weather predictions called for a steamy day with heat indexes of 110-115 degrees on Saturday, a steady overcast provided some relief for festers to enjoy music, food, and friends. Attendees could be heard from far outside the Fidelity Bank Stage as New Orleans Songbird **Robin Barnes & The Fiyabirds** excited fans, encouraging group participation with chants and whistling. **Dr. Brice Miller and his New Orleans JAZZsters** crooned the crowd with a stellar performance and the unforgettable voice of Vegas Cola. **Wendell Brunious** returned to the stage as though he had never left, surprising the audience with special guest, **Ricky Riccardi**, who took a short break from his presentations on the life of Louis Armstrong indoors to help rock the stage on piano.

Sunday brought a stint of off-and-on again showers that did not seem to faze most attendees who eagerly awaited an opportunity to see and hear from their favorites once again. Without missing a beat the festival continued; **Christopher Renshaw** gave an insider's look into the making of *'What A Wonderful World* the Musical at **The Satchmo Legacy Stage in Honor of Joni Berry** and **Hot8 Brass Band** hyped fans who danced excitedly in and around the tented stage. The voice of **Meschiya Lake** and **the Little Big Horns** captivated the audience before **Kermit Ruffins and the Barbecue Swingers** took the stage to close out the festival. Kermit, charmed the "real music-lovers" with his jokes and his music, while his pianist hopped from his seat during his solo.

Other highlights of the weekend included: the Friday **VenueApp Launch Party Onboard the Riverboat Louis Armstrong**, Sunday's **Jazz Mass at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Treme**, featuring the **Treme Brass Band** and Four new food vendors debuted including **Krab Grab**, as well as **Carmo**, 14 Parishes, and **Theaudric's Real Clever Cuisine** who offered **Gluten-Free** and **Vegan** options. In an effort to be the most sustainable festival producer in the Gulf South, FQFI in partnership with **Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Program** has committed to ensuring 100% of food and drink products are recyclable, reusable, and compostable.

Festival organizers are grateful for the support of generous sponsors [Chevron](#), [WWL-TV](#), [New Orleans Jazz Museum at the Mint](#), [GE](#), [Fidelity Bank](#), [Omni Royal Orleans](#), [Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program](#), [Times-Picayune|nola.com](#), [Friend of Fest](#), [OffBeat Magazine](#), [Joseph K. and Inez Eichenbaum Foundation](#), [Louisiana Division of the Arts](#), [JAX Brewery Parking Lots](#) and [the Berger Company](#), [Brown-Forman](#), [Abita Brewing Company](#), [Pepsi](#), [French Market Corporation](#), [Riverboat Louis Armstrong](#), [VenueApp](#), [Touro](#), [Zapp's Potato Chips](#), [New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation](#), [Sal Borelli](#), [Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation](#), [Beacon Outdoors](#), [VolunteerLocal](#), [WVOZ 90.7 FM](#), [WGSO](#), [DownBeat Magazine](#), [WHERE Magazine](#), [Vinyl District](#), and [Clarion Herald](#).

#### **About French Quarter Festivals, Inc.**

**Satchmo SummerFest** is produced by French Quarter Festivals, Inc. ([www.fqfi.org](http://www.fqfi.org)), the 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, which also produces **French Quarter Festival** in April and **Holidays New Orleans Style!** in December. French Quarter Festivals, Inc. promotes the Vieux Carré and the City of New Orleans through high-quality special events and activities that showcase the culture and heritage of this unique city, contribute to the economic well-being of the community, and instill increased pride in the people of New Orleans. For more information on all FQFI festivals and events, call (504) 522-5730 or visit online at [www.fqfi.org](http://www.fqfi.org).

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