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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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The State Museum's *Louisiana Music* Collection acquires drum kit from world-renowned musician Earl Palmer

Drummer Earl Palmer's first love may be jazz but he also has an important place in the history of rock 'n' roll. Palmer's work can be heard on recordings by Fats Domino, Smiley Lewis, and Lloyd Price, Frank Sinatra, Willie Nelson and other legends as well as on the soundtracks of *Harold and Maude* and *Cool Hand Luke*, and the TV shows *M.A.S.H.* and *The Odd Couple*. Little Richard wrote that Palmer "is probably the greatest session drummer of all time."

Now Palmer, who is a native New Orleanian, will take his place in history at the Louisiana State Museum when one of his drum sets becomes a prominent piece of the museum's Louisiana Music Collection on January 15, 2005.

Earl Palmer's historic drum kit will be a major showcase in the Louisiana State Museum's growing *Louisiana Music* collection, which focuses on different Louisiana music styles. The kit will be displayed in the *Louisiana Music* exhibit at the museum's new Baton Rouge facility (opening in 2005). The Louisiana State Museum already has one of the most extensive collections of New Orleans jazz-related memorabilia and instruments, but this exhibit has expanded its focus to include Cajun and zydeco, blues, country, and other musical forms.

Palmer's white pearl drum set is one that the Rogers Drum Company gave him in the late 1950s. At the time the drummer moved from backing up artists at Cosimo Matassa's legendary J&M Recording Studio in New Orleans to Los Angeles, where he continued drumming for rock 'n' roll and jazz artists as well as on numerous television and movie soundtracks. Despite the wide array of genres represented in Palmer's long and notable career, listeners can still hear the influence of his early days as a vaudevillian tap dancer and traces of New Orleans second-line rhythm.

Earl Palmer handed the assembled drum set over to the Louisiana State Museum officially on January 16, 2005, at the Louisiana State Museum Old U.S. Mint, 400 Esplanade Ave., New Orleans. For more information call 504-568-6972.

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For images of Earl Palmer and the drum set visit http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/site/pr_releases/pr_releases.htm.