



Contact: Sandy Bynum, Tourism Division
sbynum@mississippi.org

601.359.3297

MAC McANALLY AND FRED KNOBLOCH TO PERFORM AT DELTA MUSIC INSTITUTE GRAND OPENING

Jackson, Mississippi (March 2, 2009) Award winning singer-songwriters Mac McAnally and Fred Knobloch will perform a two-hour acoustic music show on Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Delta Music Institute's Studio A in the historic Whitfield Building on the Delta State campus.

This concert is one of several events that are part of the Grand Opening weekend for the Delta Music Institute (DMI). Joining McAnally and Knobloch will be DMI Director Tricia Walker, who spent over 25 years in Nashville as a performer and songwriter before returning to Delta State in 2006 to lead the DMI program.

"Mississippi is recognized as the "Birthplace of America's Music," stated D. Craig Ray, tourism director for the Mississippi Development Authority. "From blues legend Robert Johnson, to the king of rock 'n roll, Elvis Presley, to the father of country music, Jimmie Rodgers-the only place you'll find the history, heritage, legends and folklore that surrounds the sounds of America's music is Mississippi. This is an opportunity for visitors to hear two of Mississippi's native sons and enjoy the DMI opening festivities."

A Belmont native, McAnally is the writer and featured guest vocalist on Kenny Chesney's new single, "Down the Road," which scored the #1 spot on the Billboard/R&R and USA Today charts last week. The song was nominated recently for the Academy of Country Music's Vocal Event of the Year award. McAnally is one of the most accomplished songwriters, musicians and vocalists of his time. McAnally continues to tour as part of Jimmy Buffett's Coral Reefer band.

Fred Knobloch is a Jackson native, has been performing since the age of thirteen. In 1973, he left school to play music full-time. His hit single, "Why Not Me," was co-written with pianist Carson Whitsett. It reached #1 on the Billboard AC chart and # 18 on the HOT 100. With his good friends Thom Schuyler and Craig Bickhardt, who formed the group SKB, he recorded two albums for MTM Records, including the hits "No Easy Horses" and the #1 "Baby's Got A New Baby", co-written by Knobloch with fellow Mississippian Dan Tyler.

The Delta Music Institute began with a generous donation by Fred Carl of the Viking Range Corporation in 2003. The focus of the DMI is to provide students with a broad and thorough education in the technological, business, and creative areas of the music industry.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information on the Grand Opening weekend schedule of events, please call (662) 846-4579 or visit dmi.deltastate.edu.

###

