

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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INFLUENCE OF THE DELTA BLUES DISCUSSED AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (October 6, 2008) - As part of its year long series, *The Legacy of 1808*, commemorating the end of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, the National Constitution Center welcomes musician and historian, **Ted Gioia** for a discussion of how the Blues helped give shape to contemporary music and culture, featuring recordings from the Mississippi Delta. Leading this discussion will be **Jonny Meister**, expert in blues music and host of "The Blues Show," an award winning radio program on WXPB. This program will take place on Sunday, October 26, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

An authority on jazz and blues, Gioia is the founder and editor of jazz.com. He has recorded several CDs as a pianist and composer, and is the author of five books on jazz and roots music, including the critically acclaimed *The History of Jazz*. In his new book, *Delta Blues*, Gioia traces the history of the blues from field hollers and plantation music of the nineteenth century to the exploits of modern day musicians. *Delta Blues* provides an account of how the rough sounds of the Mississippi Delta changed the course of American popular music.

Moderator Jonny Meister has been playing the blues on WXPB since March 1977. He was one of the consultants for the Wim Wenders film, *The Soul Of A Man*, in the recent PBS film series, *The Blues*. He won the "Keeping The Blues Alive" award for work in Public Radio for "The Blues Show" in 2000 and a "Best of Philly" award from *Philadelphia* magazine in 1996 for "Best Local Radio Show."

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ADD ONE/DELTA BLUES

The Legacy of 1808 series is a year long dialogue at the National Constitution Center with local and national experts about the history of the slave trade and its contemporary relevance. *The Legacy of 1808* explores issues of race, segregation, suffrage, and individual rights in forums intended for people of all ages and backgrounds, revealing how the issue of slavery cast a dark shadow over the nation's founding and influenced the evolution of American culture and society.

A book sale and signing will follow the program, courtesy of Joseph Fox Bookshop.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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