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### **Ferris' "Live! at Williams" receives Heartland Arts Fund Performing Arts Grant**

BIG RAPIDS – "Live! at Williams," Ferris State University's Arts & Entertainment program, has received a Heartland Arts Fund grant to support an upcoming performance of The Preservation Hall Jazz Band on Feb. 12, 2005.

As part of the grant, Ferris' Harry Dempsey, professor of music in the Humanities Department, will present a pre-show lecture on the "History of Jazz."

The lecture and concert are supported by the Heartland Arts Fund, a program of Arts Midwest funded by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional contributions from General Mills Foundation, Land O'Lakes Foundation, Sprint Corporation and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. The Fund enables individuals and families throughout America's heartland to share in and enjoy the arts and cultures of this region and the world.

"Ferris State University is to be commended for its commitment to serving its community with this distinctive event," said David J. Fraher, Heartland Arts Fund chair. "Audiences in Big Rapids will have the opportunity to see the exciting work of The Preservation Hall Jazz Band, many for the first time, and the Heartland Arts Fund is proud to help support this work and 'Live! at Williams.'"

Named for the historic Preservation Hall in New Orleans, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band has been referred to by one critic as, "a bridge across the ages - a link between the present day and the heyday of traditional New Orleans music." Collectively, the musicians represent the industry's elite; a finely tuned band whose members hail from highly regarded musical families. Together, they keep alive the traditions and history of a uniquely American sound.