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## JOHNNIE TAYLOR TRIBUTE CONCERT KICKS OFF RENO-TAHOE BLUES FEST ONE DAY EARLY, AUGUST 15

**RENO, Nev. (Summer 2008)**— Celebrating a lifetime of musical contributions, the Reno-Tahoe Blues Fest highlights Floyd Taylor in a tribute in honor of his late father, the legendary Johnnie Taylor, Aug. 15 at Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nev. Floyd Taylor, performing some of his father's most beloved songs including "Disco Lady" and "Last Two Dollars," is consistently compared to his father thanks to his uncanny similarity in voice, singing style, appearance and on-stage presence. The musical tribute, commemorates a lifetime of musical talent, and kicks off the 2-day festival which runs Aug. 16 – 17 at Reno's Rancho San Rafael Park featuring 10 other blues, R&B and soul legends.

Johnnie Taylor is considered by some to be one of the great gospel, soul and R&B artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Starting off on the streets of Kansas City with the gospel quartet the Melody Makers at just 10 years old, Taylor knew already that music was in his blood. Whether leading the Soul Stirrers, a group he inherited from friend and renowned vocalist Sam Cooke, or singing doo-wop with Chicago's The 5 Echoes, Taylor's talent couldn't be contained. In 1961 Taylor left gospel singing behind him and eventually signed with Stax Records where he recorded musicians including Isaac Hayes and Booker T. Jones. Taylor's list of hits includes "Who's Making Love," "Last Two Dollars" and "Disco Lady" which topped the Billboard pop charts in 1976 and was the first single ever to become officially certified platinum for sales of two million copies.

Floyd Taylor follows in the footsteps of his legendary father performing on stage for more than 30 years. From his earliest days singing in church with his mother, as his father had before him or with a band during his high school days in Chicago, Taylor's musical talents were innate. Joining his father onstage for tours on festivals from the early 70s until the senior Taylor's death in May 2000, Floyd found a labor of love in playing alongside him. In addition to his years of performing in the shadow of Johnnie Taylor, Floyd Taylor also performed with many other stars including Natalie Cole, The O'Jays, Patti LaBelle, Aretha Franklin, Bobby Rush, Buddy Guy and Bobby Bland.

The 2008 Reno-Tahoe Blues Fest line-up for Aug. 16 – 17 features headliners Gladys Knight, The Whispers and Jonny Lang along with performances by Delta-bluesman Bobby Rush, soul and gospel legend Mavis Staples and others including Mel Waiters, Latimore, E.C. Scott, Betty Wright, Ernie Johnson and M.C. Larry La La. Daily tickets include access to all performances and VIP packages are available to attend both days.

Johnnie Taylor Tribute Concert tickets are \$10 and available for purchase at the door. Call the Reno-Tahoe Blues Fest at 775-857-3378 to reserve tickets ahead of time. Tickets for the Reno-Tahoe Blues Fest are on sale now, with one-day tickets starting at just \$58 and two-day value tickets from \$106. VIP passes, valid for both days of the Festival, are just \$210 and offer premium seating for the entire event. Group pricing and Platinum and Blues Cabana ticket packages are also available.

For more information, visit the Reno-Tahoe Blues Fest online at [www.RenoTahoeBluesFest.com](http://www.RenoTahoeBluesFest.com) or call 775-857-3378. Tickets are on sale now through Ticketmaster, online at [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com), or by phone at 775-787-8497.

*The Reno-Tahoe Blues Fest, founded in 2005, was created to bring world-class blues to the Reno-Tahoe region and to celebrate the history, culture and spirit of the blues. Staged annually at Reno's Rancho San Rafael Park, the two-day festival attracts audiences from around the country to hear some of the biggest names in blues including Etta James, Clarence Carter, Buddy Guy, Bobby Rush, Keb Mo, Bobby Blue Band and others. Established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Reno-Tahoe Blues Fest supports music education for youth in the Reno-Tahoe area through a scholarship program and ongoing assistance for school music equipment purchases and jazz band programs. Funds for the festival are raised through corporate sponsorships and ticket sales.*

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