



XAVIER
UNIVERSITY *of* LOUISIANA

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Tony! Toni! Toné, Lavar Walker to Headline XULA Benefit Concert

New Orleans LA – Popular R&B performing and recording artists Tony! Toni! Toné and comedian Lavar Walker will be the headliners for Xavier University of Louisiana's ninth annual Benefit Concert Nov. 17 at 8:00 p.m. in the University's Convocation Center.

The net proceeds generated by the annual concert series are dedicated to student scholarships and other programs that directly benefit Xavier students.

"Philanthropic support for Xavier gives us the ability to educate and train the best and most deserving students regardless of income," said XU President Dr. C. Reynold Verret. "The result is a diverse student body that better reflects the world outside of our gates and, therefore, better serves that world."

Tickets are on sale for \$50 and \$100 through XULAtix.com. Sponsor tables and patron packages are also available through the Xavier Office of Institutional Advancement at (504) 520-7575.

Tony! Toni! Toné

Making their ascendance into the annals of music history during the late '80s and throughout the 1990s, the R&B group known as Tony! Toni! Toné, were somewhat of a rare breed during the height of their chart-making success. As Hip-Hop artists began to dominate the airwaves and musician-formed bands started to dissipate. Yet the Tonys actually thrived, by releasing four seminal albums that help to define the R&B genre, and with classic songs that continue to still be in rotation on radio stations today.

It's been more than 25 years since the Oakland, California-bred band was formed. Tony! Toni! Toné! was birthed out of family. The band is currently comprised of guitarist/vocalist D'wayne Wiggins, his cousin drummer Timothy Christian Riley, and cousin, Amar Khalil on vocals. Khalil took over as lead vocalist upon the departure of Wiggins' brother Raphael Saadiq.

Today, the Tonys continue to be a consistent touring act, performing their classic hits in concert venues within the U.S. and around the world. They have committed their time and expertise to philanthropic work for the neighboring communities in Oakland. Through their foundation, Oakland Youth Aid, established in 1988, the group provides needy kids in the community with after school programs, violence prevention forums, and education in the arts and entertainment industry. The foundation has provided hundreds of kids with backpacks, piano and guitar lessons, along with social and life coaching.

Lavar Walker

If you're feeling a bit stressed, overworked or depressed, Lavar Walker has a cure for your ills. But he's

not dispensing Zoloft, Ambien, or Paxil. Instead, he recommends a dose of laughter, two tablespoons of chuckles and a booster shot of good fun.

Lavar is a Pharmacist by day and a comedian by night. He has become a pervasive presence on the comedy circuit, with a focus on everything from deep soul searching to everyday life. Lavar has appeared across the country, including gigs in Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, San Jose, Philadelphia, Nashville and too many other cities to name, while saturating the college circuit, gospel extravaganzas and corporate affairs. Add to that dozens of national television appearances, including "Showtimes Shaq Allstar Comedy Jam, Bounce T.V.s Uptown Comics, and Jamie Foxx's laffapalooza. Lavar is also the national winner of the miller lite 2012 comedy search hosted by Kevin Hart.

In a Chicago sun-times article from March 6 2013, comedian Kevin Hart said: "Remember the name Lavar Walker because I want to be able to say 'I told you so!' The guy is a legitimate comedic rock star."

About Xavier University of Louisiana

XULA students *Leave Ready* to serve, care, and lead their communities. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana visit us online at www.xula.edu or follow us on Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter @XULA1925. Take a moment to learn more about how Xavier is preparing students for the future at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sD4mb-jYZC8>.

Once again, Xavier University of Louisiana received national accolades as one of the best universities in the country. Most notably, XULA is ranked as the best value among southern regional colleges and universities in the 2018 edition of "Best Colleges" by the U.S. News Media Group. Xavier also ranked No.1 in its grouping, heading the list of only 15 schools that qualified for the Southern Region category listed under "Great Schools, Great Prices."

To book interviews about our recent accomplishments and or to speak with our experts in the field of pharmacy, premed, public health, science, technology, math, business, English, communications and the arts, contact Patrice Bell Mercadel, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at 504-520-5452 or via email at pbellmer@xula.edu.

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Tony! Toni! Toné!



Lavar Walker