



### **Exhibition Fact Sheet**

**Description:** *Pete Fountain: A Life Half-Fast* offers a well-rounded, humorous appreciation of the legendary clarinetist. Via photos and artifacts, the exhibit traces the various aspects of Fountain's life and career. Photos include images of his early days, interactions with other musicians and days as a star. In addition, there are doubloons from the Half-Fast Walking Club, album covers, Christmas cards, postal cachets, a New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival poster, bobble heads and the wax figure from the recently closed Musée Conti Wax Museum.

### **Exhibition Dates:**

- March 30, 2017 – March 31, 2018

### **Exhibition Location:**

- The New Orleans Jazz Museum at the Old U.S. Mint, 400 Esplanade Ave., New Orleans

### **Exhibition Hours:**

- 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays – Sundays
- Closed Mondays and state holidays

### **Admission:**

- Free

### **About the Exhibition:**

- As a young clarinetist, Fountain quickly rose to the top by playing with the Dukes of Dixieland and Al Hirt. By 1957 he gained fame as a regular on *The Lawrence Welk Show*. Known for his 1959 recording of "Just A Closer Walk with Thee," his prodigious recordings include everything from traditional New Orleans jazz to instrumental pop hits.

- Fountain became an even bigger celebrity after numerous appearances on Johnny Carson's *Tonight Show*. All the while, he maintained his attachment to his hometown, opening a club on Bourbon Street in 1960, which lasted until 2003 after a late 1970s move to the Hilton Riverside.
- Always exhibiting an infectious *joie de vivre*, each Mardi Gras, Fountain led his Half-Fast Walking Club, starting at the world famous Commanders Palace Restaurant in the Garden District and winding its way down St. Charles Avenue to the French Quarter.

**Overview of the Louisiana State Museum:** Founded in 1906, the Louisiana State Museum is a system of National Historic Landmarks and architecturally significant structures housing a half-million artifacts that showcase the state's history and culture.

- Five museums call New Orleans' historic French Quarter home—The Cabildo, The Presbytère, 1850 House, Madame John's Legacy and the New Orleans Jazz Museum at the Old U.S. Mint. Museums outside of New Orleans include Capitol Park Museum in Baton Rouge, Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum in Natchitoches, Wedell-Williams Aviation and Cypress Sawmill Museum in Patterson and E.D. White Historic Site in Thibodaux.
- The Louisiana State Museum's mission is to collect, preserve and present, as an educational resource, objects of art, documents, artifacts and the like that reflect the history, art and culture of Louisiana for the citizens and visitors to the State of Louisiana.
- **Louisiana State Museum website:**

[LouisianaStateMuseum.](http://LouisianaStateMuseum.)