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NEWS

Jazz Fest Bops in HD, On Web

Festival Marks Largest Live Music Webcast to Date

by Robert Brilliant

NEW ORLEANS

The New Orleans Jazz Festival undoubtedly ranks among the world's great live music events. This year, 400 bands, headlined by artists like Sting, the Allman Brothers, Alain Toussaint and the Neville Brothers, performed on 11 stages before an estimated 500,000 fans.

This year's Jazz Festival was also special in that many performances were recorded as part of the largest HD television live music production to date. These performances, along with lesser-known acts, will be showcased on the Internet this July in the largest streaming music Webcast ever produced.

Beginning July 5, music fans visiting Riffage.com's Website (www.riffage.com) can see and hear 52 hours of performances from the nine-day music event.

Television viewers will also be able to see the headline acts on PBS and VH-1 specials scheduled for broadcast later this year.

HD/SD LINE BLURRING

The program is being produced by Los Angeles-based Michael Murphy Productions. Company President Michael Murphy, a veteran producer of live music events for broadcast, has been involved with the New Orleans Jazz



Festival since 1989 and has worked with high-definition television since the early 1990s, making him one of the most experienced HD television music producers in the business.

In recent years Murphy has found the dif-

ferences between HD and standard definition (SD) production to be vanishing rapidly.

"We've gotten to the point where shooting in HD, in terms of the equipment and technical setup, is not too dissimilar from shooting in

