



CASINO RESORT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 23, 2008

RIVER ROCK CASINO RESORT
PRESENTS

THE ROBERT CRAY BAND

LIVE AT THE RIVER ROCK SHOW THEATRE
FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Robert Cray is one of the few blues artists who managed to cultivate a mainstream following in the 80's and 90's. In the course of a long-running career that began in 1974, he uniquely blended elements of rhythm and blues, pop, and traditional blues to win fans to a more contemporary blues sound. While laying down track after track of good-time, uptown, low-down blues, he's inspired critics to praise his soulful vocal and instrumental artistry.

Born in Columbus, Georgia, Cray's middle-class childhood as an "Army brat" stood in stark contrast to the impoverished Southern beginnings and Northern ghetto lifestyles of many blues greats. Cray had a number of musical influences gleaned from his father's voluminous record collection which included gospel, rhythm and blues, jazz and traditional blues. He practiced diligently and joined a band while in high school in Newport News, Virginia before he and his family picked up and moved to Tacoma, Washington. In 1969 at the age of sixteen, Cray found a kindred spirit in Richard Cousins, a local musician. The two of them embarked on a study of the blues while playing together in Tacoma bars. Their findings influenced the development of their own music and they travelled to Eugene, Oregon in the hopes of finding success in the progressive college town. The Robert Cray Band hit the bar circuit with Tom Murphy on drums and Cray as frontman on vocals and guitars. Blues musician, Albert Collins then recruited the Robert Cray Band to play with him on his Pacific Northwest tour. During this time, Cray also met actor John Belushi who gave him a small role in the 1978 film, *National Lampoon's Animal House*. Cray may have given Belushi some inspiration in return since the "Saturday Night Live" actor formed his Blues Brother act shortly thereafter.

Cray and the band released their first album, *Who's Been Talkin'* in 1980 followed by *Bad Influence* in 1983 which shot to #1 on the UK indie charts while Eric Clapton paid tribute to his colleague by covering the title song. From that point he rose quickly to worldwide prominence, earning his first Grammy for his 1986 album, *Strong Persuader*, releasing one double-platinum and two gold albums and appearing and recording with the Rolling Stones, B. B. King, Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Chuck Berry Bonnie Raitt and other giants. Their most recent album, *The Robert Cray Band: Live From Across The Pond* was released in 2006 and was the first release on Cray's own Nozzle Records. The album features the best moments from his week-long run at London's Royal Albert Hall in May, 2006 where they opened for Clapton. Four days after the album's release, the band embarked once again with Clapton on a North American tour. Cray has been rewarded with a total of five Grammys for his innovative style. The Robert Cray Band will be performing at the River Rock Casino Resort in April, 2009.

TICKETS ON SALE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 @ 10:00 AM

DOORS: 7:00 PM SHOW: 8:00 PM

Tickets: Reg. \$49.50 & Golden Circle \$59.50 (+ Service Charge & Facility Fee)

Tickets available at all Ticketmaster Outlets or Charge-by-phone (604) 280-4444 or order on-line at www.ticketmaster.ca

All shows: 19 years and over unless noted

Additional Information Contact:
Howard Blank - Vice-President, Media & Entertainment
TEL: (604) 303-1000 FAX: (604) 247-8605 hblank@gcgaming.com
Donnie Gordon - Manager, Entertainment Publicity & Promotions
TEL: (604) 247-4127 FAX: (604) 247-8505 dgordon@gcgaming.com