

Eddie Bush Inaugurates House of Blues

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BY Prentiss Findlay

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James Brown will get on the good foot Sunday in North Myrtle Beach at the House of Blues, but not before Charleston's Eddie Bush gets his foot in the door to play the inaugural show at the new club on Friday.

Godfather of soul Brown and the Blues Brothers - Dan Aykroyd, James Belushi and John Goodman - will entertain at the club's grand opening Sunday. Gov. David Beasley and a host of state and local officials as well as other celebrities are expected to attend the event.

Although Sunday is the grand opening, Bush will be the venue's first performer Friday when he opens for guitar virtuoso Eric Johnson, who records for Capitol Records. Johnson invited Bush to open for him at the House of Blues on Friday and for his show on Sunday at the Windjammer.

"I'm pretty psyched. I've wanted to play with him and do something with him like this for years," Bush said.

Bush said he got the gigs opening for Johnson because they met at Johnson's Music Farm show in December. Back then, Bush gave Johnson his two independent records, and after listening to them, Johnson wrote Bush in January to say that he liked Bush's work and considered him a potential national talent.

For Bush, the North Myrtle Beach show may lead to other things as well because record industry folks will be on hand for the House of Blues grand opening weekend. He could get work at the four other House of Blues locations in Cambridge, Mass., Los Angeles, New Orleans and Chicago.

"If you play one House of Blues, they generally will put you on that rotation for all of them," he says.

The North Myrtle Beach House of Blues, located next to Barefoot Landing, includes a 300-seat restaurant, a 200-seat patio and a concert hall with a capacity for 2,000. Bush's House of Blues show with Johnson Friday and the club's grand opening Sunday are sold out. However, you can still catch Johnson and Bush Sunday at the Windjammer, where the Eddie Bush Group also plays tonight.