

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



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BROADWAY STAR HEADLINES COLUMBUS JAZZ ORCHESTRA'S SONGBOOK SERIES OPENER

Ann Hampton Callaway guest stars in Blues in the Night

Columbus, Ohio— The Columbus Jazz Orchestra's 2006-07 season and its *Great American Songbook* series begin September 22-23, 2006 at 8:00pm at the Southern Theatre with *Blues in the Night*, guest starring singer Ann Hampton Callaway with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, under the direction of Byron Stripling.

In addition to performing her own fresh interpretations of the great American songbook, multi-platinum selling vocalist, songwriter and Tony-nominated Broadway star Ann Hampton Callaway will offer up a tribute to torch singer Peggy Lee. Callaway's tribute will include songs such as "Black Coffee," the title track of Lee's 1953 release, which jazz critic Will Friedwald proclaimed one of the ten greatest jazz vocal albums ever made, and will also include Lee's biggest hit and signature song, the sultry "Fever."

Describing Peggy Lee's influence on her own style, Callaway states, "I first saw Peggy Lee when I was a teenager...and was awestruck by her extraordinary combination of intelligence, glamour, sexiness, humor and vulnerability. She wrote her own songs and was probably America's first great female singer-songwriter. She had astonishing stage presence and never wasted a note or gesture. I wanted to find all these things in myself."

Callaway joins the CJO on the heels of her August 2006 release on Telarc Records, *Blues in the Night*, a collection of classics from the American songbook and fresh originals by the artist. The September 22-23 performances represent her second appearance with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra (CJO); the singer has also appeared with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops, and dozens more of the nation's top orchestras and big bands.

The CJO's *Great American Songbook* series continues January 12-13, 2007, when the stylish crooner John Pizzarelli joins the Orchestra for a tribute to Frank Sinatra.

Single tickets (\$35-48) for the September 22-23 concerts are available for purchase online at www.jazzartsgroup.org or from the Jazz Arts Group ticket office at 614.294.5200. Student Rush \$10 tickets (valid college ID required) and Be-Bop Balcony \$5 tickets (ages 6-18) are available at the door. A complete schedule of the CJO's offerings can be found at www.jazzartsgroup.org.

The Great American Songbook series is sponsored by The Westin Columbus, with media sponsorship from WMNI 920 AM. *Blues in the Night* is sponsored in part by WCBE 90.5 FM.

About Ann Hampton Callaway

Multi-platinum selling vocalist, songwriter and Tony-nominated Broadway star Ann Hampton Callaway is one of the finest singer-songwriters of our time. Her talents have made her equally at home in jazz and pop as well as on stage, in the recording studio, on TV and in film. She is best known for starring in the hit Broadway musical *Swing!*, and for writing and singing the theme to the internationally successful TV series, *The Nanny*. Ann is a devoted keeper-of-the-flame of the great American songbook, and brings fresh and original interpretations to these timeless classics. *The New York Times* writes, “For sheer vocal beauty, no contemporary singer matches Ms. Callaway.”

A gifted writer, Callaway’s music and lyrics have been performed and recorded by Barbra Streisand, Diana Ross, Liza Minnelli, Patti Lupone, Michael Feinstein, Karrin Allyson, Celine Dion, Harvey Fierstein, Liz Callaway, Carole King and others. The Cole Porter Estate officially recognizes Callaway as the only composer to have collaborated with Cole Porter, having set her music to his posthumously discovered lyric, “I Gaze in Your Eyes.”

Callaway has eleven recordings to her credit and has appeared as a guest artist on over 40 CDs. Her latest release is *Blues in the Night*, a dynamic collection of American Songbook classics and originals, released on Telarc Records.

Callaway is a favorite on the jazz and pops circuit, having performed with dozens of the country’s finest orchestras and big bands. Her performances have been seen on numerous TV shows, including *The Today Show*, *CNN’s Larry King Live*, *The Charlie Rose Show*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and many more. Her honors include a Tony Award nomination for Best Actress in a Musical for her work in *Swing!*, and the Theatre World Award for Outstanding Broadway Debut. She has garnered an unsurpassed fourteen awards from The Manhattan Association of Cabarets and Clubs, the 2005 Nightlife Award, and The Johnny Mercer Songwriter Award, among others.

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The Columbus Jazz Orchestra (CJO) is the flagship ensemble of the Jazz Arts Group (JAG), America’s oldest arts organization dedicated to the presentation of jazz. The CJO—which performs over 40 concerts each season—is considered one of the finest jazz orchestras in the world and consists of musicians who are nationally and internationally known as performers and educators.

JAG receives ongoing support from the Ohio Arts Council, the Greater Columbus Arts Council, and the Columbus Foundation.