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Electronic images available upon request.

CHUCK MANGIONE TO PERFORM WITH COLUMBUS JAZZ ORCHESTRA

CJO's Swingin' at the Southern series opens with bebopper-turned-smooth jazz icon

Columbus, Ohio— The Columbus Jazz Orchestra's 2006-07 *Swingin' at the Southern* series opens October 25-29 with guest star Chuck Mangione at the Southern Theatre. The Columbus Jazz Orchestra, under the direction of Byron Stripling, will perform with the internationally-known jazz star in a concert titled *Feels So Good*, after Mangione's double-platinum 1977 smooth jazz hit of the same name.

Mangione's sound on flugelhorn and trumpet is instantly recognizable, and his upbeat, melodic pop music made him an international celebrity throughout the 1970s and '80s. Though Mangione is known for bringing the smooth jazz sound to audiences worldwide in the 1970s, Mangione was originally a be-bopper. Dizzy Gillespie, who originated the sound of be-bop, was a close family friend. Mangione played with the famous big bands of Woody Herman and Maynard Ferguson, both in 1965, and Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers from 1965 to '67. Mangione and his brother, Gap, co-led a bop quintet, the Jazz Brothers, and recorded several albums.

By 1968, however, Mangione was sticking with the soft sounds of the flugelhorn, using large orchestras in his recordings and establishing the signature sound that made him an international star. His most enduring hit, "Feels So Good," has been recognized by smooth jazz radio stations across the country as their all-time number-one song.

With worldwide fame came a diverse collection of accolades, awards and opportunities – from winning two GRAMMY Awards, an Emmy and a Golden Globe to writing and performing the theme of the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, NY; from being feted by Dick Clark with a one-hour network television special to numerous conducting dates with symphony orchestras; and appearing on television shows as diverse as "The Tonight Show," "Soul Train" and "Solid Gold" to his self-parody as a celebrity spokesperson for the Mego Lo Mart on the hit Fox TV show "King of the Hill."

The Columbus Jazz Orchestra will perform Mangione's own arrangements for jazz orchestra and many of his hit singles, including "Chase The Clouds Away," "Children of Sanchez," "Hill Where The Lord Hides," "Land Of Make Believe," and "Feels So Good." In addition to his playing, Mangione will lead the CJO in several of his own arrangements.

The Columbus Youth Jazz Orchestra (CYJO) will perform at 1:00pm on Sunday, October 29, prior to the matinee performance of *Feels So Good*. The CYJO performance is free for all Sunday matinee ticket holders.

Single tickets (\$30-48) for the October 25-29 concerts are available for purchase online at jazzartsgroup.org or from the Jazz Arts Group ticket office, (614.294.5200, x 3). Student Rush \$10 tickets (valid college ID required) and Be-Bop Balcony \$5 tickets (ages 6-18) are available at the door.

Feels So Good is sponsored by AEP Ohio, with media support from The Columbus Dispatch, WCBE 90.5 FM, Smooth Jazz 103.5 WJZA and 104.3 WJZK, Time Warner Cable and WBNS 10TV.

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The Columbus Jazz Orchestra (CJO) is the flagship ensemble of the Jazz Arts Group (JAG), America's oldest not-for-profit arts organization dedicated to producing, performing and promoting jazz. The CJO—which performs nearly 50 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.

The Jazz Arts Group receives ongoing support from the Ohio Arts Council, the Greater Columbus Arts Council, and The Columbus Foundation.