

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



Date: December 18, 2006  
Contact: Jessica Fagan, Director of Communications  
Phone: 614.294.5200, x 110  
Email: [jfagan@jazzartsgroup.org](mailto:jfagan@jazzartsgroup.org)  
*Electronic images available upon request.*

## JOHN PIZZARELLI JOINS JAZZ ORCHESTRA FOR SINATRA TRIBUTE

*Standards get fresh interpretation with Pizzarelli's vocals, arrangements by John Clayton*

Columbus, Ohio— The Columbus Jazz Orchestra's 2006-07 *Great American Songbook* series continues January 12-13, 2007 when John Pizzarelli joins the orchestra for *John Pizzarelli Sings Sinatra*, under the direction of Byron Stripling.

Internationally known for classic jazz standards, late-night ballads and the cool jazz flavor he brings to his performances and recordings, John Pizzarelli has established himself as a consummate entertainer and one of the foremost contemporary interpreters of the great American songbook.

Performing with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, Pizzarelli will pay tribute to the undeniable master of the American songbook, Frank Sinatra. Sinatra's indelible voice, inventive phrasing and larger-than-life personality made him perhaps the greatest entertainer of all time. Pizzarelli's own penchant for style and swing, and his ability to deliver standards in his own unique way make him the most fitting of artists to deliver a tribute to Sinatra.

The concert follows on the heels of Pizzarelli's recent release on Telarc Records, *Dear Mr. Sinatra*, a collection of eleven Sinatra standards made new again by Pizzarelli's fresh interpretations.

*John Pizzarelli Sings Sinatra* will feature many of the tunes appearing on *Dear Mr. Sinatra*, with dynamic new arrangements by John Clayton, including "How About You?", "I've Got You Under My Skin", and "I've Got The World On A String".

The CJO's Saturday evening performance of *John Pizzarelli Sings Sinatra* will be broadcast live on WOSU-FM, Classical 89.7.

Single tickets (\$35-48) for the January 12-13 concerts are available for purchase online at [jazzartsgroup.org](http://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.

*The Great American Songbook Series* is sponsored by The Westin Columbus and WMNI 920 AM. *John Pizzarelli Sings Sinatra* enjoys media support from The Columbus Dispatch, WOSU 89.7, and WCBE 90.5 FM.

The series concludes May 18-19 with a Stan Kenton *Road Show*, featuring The Four Freshmen, Kelly Crum Delaveris, and CJO Artistic Director Emeritus Ray Eubanks.

## More about John Pizzarelli

“Pizzarelli proves he can craft a song into a personal statement like few other artists.”

– *Downbeat Magazine*

John Pizzarelli has had a multi-faceted career as a jazz guitarist, vocalist and bandleader, and has won legions of fans around the world. Following in the footsteps of his father, guitar legend Bucky Pizzarelli, John Pizzarelli has been playing guitar since age six. He began performing with his father at age 20, soon emerging as an artist in his own right and one of the foremost contemporary interpreters of the great American songbook. He has recorded as a leader for RCA, Chesky, Stash and Novus, and in 1997 appeared in the Broadway musical *Dream*, a revue of Johnny Mercer songs.

With Telarc's recent release of *Dear Mr. Sinatra*, a homage to 'Ol' Blue Eyes,' Pizzarelli's album count now stands at 21, an odyssey that began with *My Blue Heaven* in 1990. Some of his most recent recordings include *Knowing You* (Telarc 2005), *Bossa Nova* (Telarc 2004), and *Live at Birdland* (Telarc 2003).

A veteran radio personality, Pizzarelli hosted “New York Tonight” on WNEW from 1984 to 1988 and recently launched “Radio Deluxe with John Pizzarelli,” a nationally syndicated radio program he co-hosts with his wife, Broadway star Jessica Molaskey.

In addition to being a bandleader, radio personality and solo performer, Pizzarelli has been a special guest on recordings for major pop names such as James Taylor, Natalie Cole, and Rickie Lee Jones, as well as leading jazz artists like Rosemary Clooney, Ruby Braff, Johnny Frigo, Buddy DeFranco, Harry Allen and, of course, Bucky Pizzarelli. He was recently featured opposite Donna Summer, Jon Secada and Roberta Flack on the Grammy Award winning CD, *Songs From The Neighborhood: The Music of Mr. Rogers*.

Pizzarelli has performed numerous times on the country's most popular national television shows, including “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno,” “The Late Show with David Letterman,” “Live With Regis & Kelly,” and “The CBS Early Show.”

Pizzarelli continues to tour throughout the United States, Europe and Japan, performing classic pop, jazz and swing, while setting the standard for stylish modern jazz.

###

*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.