

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Andre Vener

Pasadena Entertainment

626 304 0333

626 483 8366 (cell)

andre@pasadena-entertainment.com

December 7, 2009

JAMES TORME JOINS LONG LIST OF NOTED TALENTS AT NUTCRACKER SWINGS COOL JAZZ CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Concert features Duke Ellington's sophisticated rewrite of Tchaikovsky's holiday classic, Vince Guaraldi's Charlie Brown Christmas and more, with stars including James Tormé, Renee Olstead, Maestro Victor Vener, the Pasadena Jazz Orchestra, Sylvia St. James and the Sacred Nation Gospel Choir. Noted personality Bryan Gallyot hosts the event and future jazz legends the PJI Junior Superstars perform the pre-concert entertainment, setting the stage for some of today's living jazz legends, all the while sharing the Christmas spirit with the community. One night only, Saturday, December 19 at 7:00pm, Pasadena Convention Center Grand Ballroom.

PASADENA, Calif. If stars are one of the many symbols of Christmas, then on Saturday, December 19 at *The Nutcracker Swings* the winter holiday will be in full force. With noted talent including jazz great James Tormé, son of the legendary Mel Tormé; gospel giant Sylvia St. James with the Sacred Nation Gospel Choir (who perform the weekly Gospel Brunch at the House of Blues), trumpeter Bryan Lipps, on loan from Michael Bublé; and Jim Miller, Principal Trombone of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Rounding out the musical talent are the redwhite+bluezz all stars and the Pasadena Jazz Orchestra. Plus, the event is being hosted by Bryan Gallyot, who was awarded the title Best Local Personality in the Pasadena Weekly's 2008 & 2009 Readers Polls. And a visit from one of Christmas' own stars—Santa Claus himself.

For award-winning jazz singer James Tormé, the concert is a real opportunity to keep important components of our American heritage alive. "How satisfying it is to be asked to participate in such a marvelous event for such a worthy cause. There are few things more important than the survival of west coast jazz and Christmas, two of the great jewels in the crown of American culture."

Undoubtedly, Tormé will perform his family perennial The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire)—a timeless classic his father co-wrote 64 years ago here in Southern California. It remains today as the world's number one holiday song. "I'm always thrilled to perform it, but there's something else I'll be singing which I'm even more excited about. It's another holiday song my dad wrote, but it's not at all well known." Tormé, whose first full-length album comes out next year on E1 Music, will also perform other Christmas favorites as well as unique material he has cre-

ated for the one-night-only concert.

“We’re really thrilled to put this amazing collection of talent together to celebrate Christmas—and to raise money for a truly important community institution,” says André Vener, Executive Producer of Pasadena Entertainment. “Paul and I have been able to assemble one of the best lineups either of us have ever worked with.” The Paul that Vener refers to is Paul Lines, Artistic Director of the Pasadena Jazz Institute, a noted drummer who will be returning to the trap set for Duke Ellington’s jazzy arrangement of Tchaikovsky’s ever-popular *Nutcracker Suite*.

Lines himself is a bit awed by how the concert is shaping up. Says Lines, “I’ve worked with great musicians from around the world—as a professional you get used to collaborating with outstanding talent and forget about peoples’ reputations—but getting so many artists of this caliber together for one concert is really unique and inspiring. I can’t wait to perform with them all!”

For Bryan Gallyot, known to many as “Mr. Pasadena”, hosting the benefit concert is humbling. “I love giving back to the community; being tapped to emcee this event and helping to raise funds for such an incredible arts organization is a dream come true. I can’t wait to share this experience with the audience and musicians.”

Concertgoers will be seated at tables and have the option of purchasing a full service three course meal with their seats for \$35 per person. A self-serve buffet will also be available, with entrées from \$10-\$18. Beverages including wine and a cash bar will also be available. Tickets for the event range from \$30.00 to \$70.00 per seat and can be purchased through Ticketmaster by calling 800 745 3000 or at ticketmaster.com or by visiting nutcrackerswings.com.

Sponsors of the event include Pasadena Entertainment, redwhite+bluezz, Pasadena Independent, Pasadena Weekly and Waltrip’s Music. For more information about The Nutcracker Swings, please visit nutcrackerswings.com.

*Dedicated to jazz education, preservation and participation, the **Pasadena Jazz Institute** is a non-profit, community benefit organization that celebrates this uniquely American art form. Known throughout the region for its innovative programming, with series like **Jazz On The Terrace** and **Jazz At Paseo**, the Institute has brought some of the area’s most exciting jazz artists to thousands of eager music lovers and have set hundreds of young people on their way to incorporating jazz into their lives as performers and listeners since its inception in 2001. Following on the Institute’s successful first season of concerts Lines added **Jazz Camp For Kids** in the summer of 2002 and the **Pasadena Jazz Orchestra** the following December. In addition to its public concerts, the Institute presents school concerts in the Pasadena Unified School District in order to share the legacy of jazz throughout the Pasadena community. For more information on its concerts and programs, visit the Institute online at pasjazz.org or call 626 398 3344.*

Pasadena Entertainment brings the area's best music, venues, wine and event producers together to create incredible events and continue Pasadena's tradition of excellence in community involvement. The company, spearheaded by André Vener, has produced many noted events in the past year including the Freedom Concert, Cal Phil Festival on the Green, Pasadena Wine Festival, an exhibition match between the Los Angeles Galaxy and FC Barcelona and a free concert by the Spazmatics on the steps of the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. For more information, visit pasadena-entertainment.com or call 626 304 0333.

#

PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST, OR VISIT

<http://www.nutcrackerswings.com/press/gallery.htm>