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Friday, May 1, 2015

New Philharmonia Orchestra Presents
An Evening with John Pizzarelli

With Guest Conductor Bo Winiker

Friday, June 12, 2015 8:00 pm

First Baptist Church, Newton Centre

Tickets go on sale Monday, May 4 at 2 PM

"John Pizzarelli has the gift of gab in more ways than one. A great storyteller, he can spin the tiniest anecdote about the musician's life into a sidesplitting absurdist yarn. As a guitarist who leads his own quartet, he instigates high-speed musical conversations within the group that have the fast, frisky playfulness of a pro basketball team tossing off a victory," wrote Stephen Holden in *The New York Times* in 2012 after the Pizzarelli band performed at New York's famed Café Carlyle.

Newton, MA – For the finale of its 20th Anniversary Season, New Philharmonia Orchestra will present "**An Evening With John Pizzarelli**" on Friday, June 12, 8 pm at the First Baptist Church, 848 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02459. The world-renowned jazz guitarist and singer **John Pizzarelli** will perform with his quartet featuring **Martin Pizzarelli** on bass, **Kevin Kanner** on drums and **Konrad Paszkudzki** on piano, as well as with the full **New Philharmonia Orchestra** and, as a special treat, Boston's own **Bo Winiker** will guest conduct the orchestra.

Reserved seat tickets at \$100, \$50 and \$35 will be available on Monday, May 4th at <http://www.newphil.org> or by calling: 617-527-9717. A limited number of \$500 VIP tickets will also be available; they will include a "**Pizza with Pizzarelli**" reception after the concert with pizza and fine Italian wines. The First Baptist Church in Newton is wheelchair accessible. For more information about New Philharmonia, go to <http://www.newphil.org>. "**An Evening With John Pizzarelli**" is a fundraiser for the orchestra.

After his smash success with the Boston Pops, jazz guitarist and singer John Pizzarelli was hailed by the *Boston Globe* for "reinvigorating the Great American Songbook and re-popularizing jazz." And the *Seattle Times* called him "a tour de force" and "a rare entertainer of the old school."

Pizzarelli started playing guitar at age six, following in the tradition of his father. After playing in pickup groups and garage bands through high school he began exploring jazz with his father as a teenager, and was able to perform with a number of great jazz musicians who would be a major influence on his work, including Benny Goodman, Les Paul, Zoot Sims, Clark Terry

and Slam Stewart. John went out on his own after recording *My Blue Heaven* for Chesky Records in 1990, then toured extensively, playing clubs and concert halls, opening for such greats as Dave Brubeck, Ramsey Lewis and Rosemary Clooney. In 1993, he was honored to open for Frank Sinatra's international tour and then joined in the celebration for his 80th birthday at Carnegie Hall bringing down the house singing "I Don't Know Why I Love You Like I Do" with his father accompanying him.

A popular TV commercial for Foxwoods Casino has made Pizzarelli a recognizable face. "In the Northeast, I can see people staring at me on the street. 'The Wonder Of It All' is a great tune," he enthuses of the Don Sebesky-arranged number. "And people are calling the casino to ask 'who's that guy singing?' If I'm going to be associated with a jingle, I'm happy that at least it's something I like."

In addition to being a bandleader and solo performer, John has been a special guest on recordings for major pop names such as James Taylor, Natalie Cole, Kristin Chenoweth, Tom Wopat, Rickie Lee Jones and Dave Von Ronk, as well as leading jazz artists like Ruby Braff, Johnny Frigo, Buddy DeFranco, Harry Allen and Bucky Pizzarelli. He was featured opposite Donna Summer, Jon Secada and Roberta Flack on the Grammy® Award-winning CD, *Songs From The Neighborhood: The Music of Mr. Rogers* in 2005.

John has performed on the country's most popular national television shows such as "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," "The Late Show with David Letterman," "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon," "The Conan Show," "Live With Regis & Kelly," "The Tony Danza Show," "The CBS Early Show," Fox News Channel, and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

John Pizzarelli has a new CD: *John Pizzarelli Salutes Johnny Mercer*, released January 20, 2015 on Deluxe Sounds. Recorded live at Birdland with John's quartet expanded by a horn section, tracks on the new disc include well-known Johnny Mercer tunes such as "Goody Goody," "Skylark," "Something's Gotta Give," and "Too Marvelous for Words."

About Bo Winiker:

A graduate of New England Conservatory, Bo Winiker plays trumpet, flugelhorn and vibraphone. Bo recently fulfilled his lifelong dream of conducting and soloing at Boston Symphony Hall, where he led the Boston Pops Swing Orchestra during the opening night of both the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Symphony Orchestra seasons as well as the sold out 2013 and 2014 New Year's Eve galas. He toured worldwide with the NEC's Grammy® Award-winning Ragtime Ensemble, under the direction of Gunther Schuller as well as with the Stan Kenton Orchestra. In addition, Bo has appeared as a soloist with the New York Philharmonic and the Cleveland Orchestra and has also recorded on the movie soundtrack *A League of Their Own* with Billy Joel. Bo performed at the White House for President Ford and at two Presidential Inaugurations, for Presidents Carter and Clinton. He is best known for his band leading which can only be described as captivating!

About New Philharmonia:

The New Philharmonia Orchestra, founded in 1995 by its musicians, with Ronald Knudsen as Music Director, is celebrating 20 years this season. The Newton-based organization is a 75 member non-professional regional orchestra. "Music of, by, and for the people" encapsulates the spirit of the organization and from the outset New Phil's motto, *MUSIC FOR ALL*, has been its mission. The orchestra advances these ideals by presenting programs of diverse repertoire of classical and light classical music for the enjoyment of audiences of all ages and experiences from a variety of urban and suburban communities.

About First Baptist Church in Newton:

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the building was designed by the young Boston architect John Lyman Faxon (1851-1918) and it was completed in 1888. It was completed in the Late Victorian era, one of the most significant periods of American architecture now recognized as unique and indigenous to the United States. The church has since resisted temptations of succeeding generations to alter the building to more current styles, so it remains a fine, intact, handsome example of uniquely American building.

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Tickets: \$500 VIP seating with "Pizza & Pizzarelli" Gala Reception After the Concert

\$100, \$50 and \$35

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