

MEDIA Release

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**The Dix Hills Performing Arts Center presents
another installment it's long-running
Great American Songbook series**

From Torch songs to Bluesy Ballads American these standards have set the stage for generations of musicians and music fans alike

October 12, 2010, Dix Hills, NY – The Dix Hills Performing Arts Center proudly presents the second 2010 engagement in its long-running Great American Songbook jazz standard series, Friday, Nov. 5th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for this Five Towns favorite are only \$10 for this senior-friendly performance open to all.

It'll be an enchanted evening when a young jazz ensemble under the direction of pianist Scott Ballin takes center stage here to accompany a series of student vocalists who will perform a warm and lively series of favorite standards.

"The songs are old, the musicians are young, and the audience gets a chance to relive some of the world's great music which put America on the musical map in the twentieth century's golden age of songwriting," said Ballin, a professor of music who plays piano throughout the Great American Songbook performances and directs the student ensemble and soloists.

"The students will be playing upright basses and singing torch songs. Some of them participate in every one of these events we do, and some are new to it. What they have in common is that they love what they are doing and they have a great time doing it," he said

The series provides talented music students -- used to performing in large ensembles with their peers -- an opportunity to step forward as soloists to be heard as individuals. This brings out many families, students, jazz aficionados and Long Islanders in general looking for a change of pace on a Sunday afternoon.

The Great American Songbook is actually a common name, frequently referring to the inspired music of Broadway and Hollywood between 1920 and 1960, when the rock'n'roll era brought about its decline.

“One week the top hit in *Billboard Magazine* was ‘I’ve Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts’ by Merv Griffin, and then suddenly it was ‘Rock Around the Clock’ by Bill Haley and the Comets,” remembered one fan who attended the most recent Great American Songbook event. But despite the era’s sudden end, many still recognize it as the high point of American musical culture, at a time when records, talking pictures, radio and then television contributed to bring this songwriting art to the entire world.

The Dix Hills Performing Arts Center

The Dix Hills Performing Arts Center is located at Five Towns College, 305 North Service Road, Dix Hills, New York, 11746-5857. For more information and ticket sales, please contact the Dix Hills Performing Arts Center box office at (631) 656-2148 or visit online at www.DHPAC.org. Become a fan on Facebook! (Dix Hills Performing Arts Center).

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