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Nat King Cole's daughters to commemorate their father and honor Johnny Mathis while benefitting music education at a "Stardust Affair"

Benefit on November 20 in South Florida will mark music legend's passing 45 years ago

BOCA RATON, FL, September 14, 2010 – The youngest twin daughters of Nat King Cole, Timolin and Casey Cole, will commemorate their father while raising funds for music education by hosting Nat King Cole Generation Hope's "Stardust Affair" on November 20 in South Florida. The Cole twins founded the organization (www.natkingcolefoundation.org) a non-profit foundation that supports music education in public schools, in 2008.

Music legend Johnny Mathis will attend the Stardust Affair where he will receive the Nat King Cole Lifetime Achievement Award of Unforgettable Music. Mrs. Nat King Cole will join her twin daughters in honoring Mr. Mathis and in commemorating her late husband 45 years after his passing; Nat King Cole would have turned 90 this year. In addition, Nat King Cole's brother, international recording artist Freddy Cole, will perform.

"Johnny Mathis, for more than 50 years, has been one of the most celebrated singers in the world and we are thrilled to recognize this wonderful man with the Nat King Cole Lifetime Achievement Award for Unforgettable Music," said Timolin Cole. "By raising funds for music education, perhaps we will help inspire a future Johnny Mathis or Nat King Cole."

Boca Raton philanthropists Brooke and Michael Toppel will serve as the honorary chairs for The Stardust Affair. Phil Keating, national correspondent for Fox News, will serve as the emcee. The event will take place at the Boca Raton Resort's Beach Club and will feature live music entertainment, a silent auction, dinner and dancing under the stars overlooking the Atlantic ocean. Proceeds will help further music education in South Florida schools, reaching kids with the greatest need and fewest resources.

The Cole Twins launched the Foundation after learning of budget cuts in South Florida public schools. It was created to provide funding for music education to children of all ages, ethnic backgrounds and diversities, including instruction in musical instruments, composition, songwriting and recording arts as well as several other seminars and field trips. Established in 2008, the Foundation donated musical instruments to schools throughout South Florida, with plans to expand nationally in the near future.

“We believe our father, by right, has earned his place in history as a true American hero and legend through his contribution to the world of music,” said Casey Cole. “By enriching students with the opportunity to enhance their musical talents and abilities, our father’s legacy lives on.”

About Nat King Cole Generation Hope

Nat King Cole Generation Hope, Inc., a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, is helping support music education in Florida. Musical instruments, instruction, seminars, state-of-the-art recording equipment and funding are being provided to students with the greatest need and fewest resources in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties. Décor for the Stardust Affair will be provided by Carol Ann Kradin of CA Productions (www.caproductions.biz), an event planning, décor and design firm. For additional information regarding the Foundation, please visit: www.natkingcolefoundation.org.

About Johnny Mathis

Johnny Mathis was born on September 30, 1935 in Gilmer, Texas to Clem and Meredith Mathis. As a small child, his family moved to San Francisco where he launched his musical career. He celebrated his 50 years as a recording star in 2006. Johnny’s accomplishments are numerous and varied. He holds many records and has set many precedents in the music industry. In 1958, two years after being signed by Columbia Records, “Johnny’s Greatest Hits” was released. It began a “Greatest Hits” tradition copied by every record company since then. “Johnny’s Greatest Hits” went on to become one of the most popular albums of all time and spent an unprecedented 490 continuous weeks (almost 10 years) in the Billboard Top Albums Chart. This record has been noted in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Throughout his career, he has received three Grammy nominations. The first was for “Misty” in 1960 in the category of Best Male Vocal Performance – Single Record or Track. The second was in 1992 for “In a Sentimental Mood/Mathis Sings Ellington” in the category of Best Traditional Pop Performance. The most recent nomination was in 2006 for “Isn’t it Romantic” in the category of Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album.

He has been inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame two times so far: in 1998 with “Chances Are” (Columbia Traditional Pop Single 1957). In 2002 he made the list again with “Misty” (Columbia Traditional Pop single in 1959). Most impressive of all is his Lifetime Achievement Award by the Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. For more information, please visit www.johnnymathis.com.

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