

**PETER CINCOTTI BRINGS THE GOLDEN AGE OF JAZZ VOCALS  
TO A NEW GENERATION AT CAL PERFORMANCES  
SATURDAY, APRIL 30 AT 8:00 P.M.**

**BERKELEY**, March 22, 2005 – Hailed a “. . .master jazz vocalist, composer and arranger” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, **Peter Cincotti** comes to **Zellerbach Hall** on **Saturday, April 30 at 8:00 p.m.** as part of a globetrotting tour that is laying to rest any lingering doubts about the continued vitality and cross-generational appeal of jazz. With a blend of youthful charm and precocious sophistication, Mr. Cincotti – in league with swinging sidekicks **Scott Kreitzer** on sax, **Barak Mori** on bass, and **Mark McLean** on drums – creates fresh contemporary takes on jazz and pop standards as well as heartfelt and often seductive renditions of his own original compositions. The program features songs from his second recording *On the Moon*, of which the *Chicago Sun Times* observed “[Peter Cincotti] is back with a vengeance...you won’t know what hit you.”

**PETER CINCOTTI**

**Peter Cincotti** has been called the new Bobby Darin, the new Harry Connick, Jr., and even—gasp!—the new Sinatra. While his charismatic stage presence, velvet-smooth baritone and preternaturally polished piano playing invite such comparisons, Mr. Cincotti is also a multi-talented original: a singer, songwriter, composer, and arranger who is paving his own path to stardom. In 2002, the 18-year-old musical prodigy became the youngest headliner in the 100-year history of the Algonquin Hotel’s Oak Room. The “jazz wunderkind,” as *Vanity Fair* has called him, released his debut CD *Peter Cincotti* in 2003. The recording reached number one on *Billboard*’s Traditional Jazz Chart and ranked number three in overall sales for that year. His second recording *On the Moon* debuted at number two on *Billboard*’s chart in late 2004.

Mr. Cincotti first displayed musical talent at age three when he began picking out tunes on a toy piano given to him by his grandmother. A year later his parents replaced the toy with a Baldwin and hired his first piano teacher. His early childhood was filled with musical studies, including classical piano classes at the Manhattan School of Music and private jazz piano lessons with, among other illustrious teachers, Ellis Marsalis. At seven, he attracted the attention of

Harry Connick, Jr., who invited him sit in at a show at Bally's Grand in Atlantic City. He turned professional at age 12 and began playing regularly in New York clubs, but he didn't begin singing to his own accompaniment until 1999. In the summer of 1999, he toured with Mr. Connick, and in 2000 he appeared at the Montreux Jazz Festival where he was a prize-winner in the piano competition. 2000 also included his high school graduation and enrollment at Columbia University—an exceptional year for an exceptional teenager.

### **SCOTT KREITZER**

While Peter Cincotti leads the quartet, he respectfully cedes a large part of the limelight to woodwind meister **Scott Kreitzer**. Though the ebullient and energetic saxophonist is somewhat older than the other members of the quartet, Mr. Cincotti calls him the teenager of the group. Young at heart though he might be, Mr. Kreitzer is nonetheless a veteran musician with a long and varied career as a composer, leader and sideman. He started playing the clarinet in junior high school, but soon decided that the saxophone would be his primary instrument. After training that included studying saxophone with living legend Joe Lovano, Mr. Krietzer went on to win the 1988 Hennessey Jazz Search Contest and to open that year's Playboy Jazz Festival.

Scott Kreitzer has released three CDs as a leader, including 1990's N.Y. State of Mind, which won a Swing Journal Gold Disc Award. He has appeared as a sideman on many recordings by artists and groups as diverse as Billy Joel, Spyro Gyra, David Lee Roth, Manhattan Transfer, and recently, Rod Stewart. Mr. Kreitzer's work for Spyro Gyra also includes songwriting credits for two singles on Spyro Gyra's *Love and Other Obsessions*.

### **MARK McLEAN**

While Canadian-born drummer **Mark McLean** is only in his early twenties, he has already appeared on over 20 recordings, including the one he considers his first big break—Andy Bey's 2004 *American Song*, which was nominated for a Grammy award. Although Mr. McLean began his musical life at age nine studying classical piano lesson, he started playing the drums for his junior high concert band four years later. He focused on both instruments until age 18, when he decided that drums would be his principal means of musical expression. In 1999 Mr. McLean moved to the U.S. to study with jazz drummer extraordinaire, Kenny Washington. Highlights of

Mr. McLean's young career include performing in Oscar Peterson's trio in 1997, touring and recording with saxophonist/flautist (and fellow Canadian) Jane Bunnett, and holding down the drummer's spot for saxophonist Dewey Redman's Quartet.

### **BARAK MORI**

Israeli-born bassist **Barak Mori** began playing the organ at age seven and at 13 he was playing jazz on the guitar and electric bass. By the time Mori had graduated from the Thelma Yelin School of the Arts he had already played professionally at the world renowned Red Sea Jazz Festival, and toured internationally with the Young Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra. In 1996, Mori joined Israel's most prestigious jazz band led by saxophonist Walter Blanding Jr. In 1998, he received a scholarship to study at the New School University. Mr. Mori has resided in New York for the past 7 years, and has performed and recorded alongside many distinguished artists such as Benny Green, Peter Bernstein, Eric Reed, Paula West, and Kenny Washington. Mr. Mori has been playing with Peter Cincotti since 2003.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Peter Cincotti** on **Saturday, April 30** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$22.00**, **\$32.00**, and **\$42.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

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Cal Performances' presentation of Peter Cincotti is made possible, in part, by Sherman Clay

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Saturday, April 30 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*Jazz*

**Peter Cincotti**, piano and vocals

**Scott Kreitzer**, saxophones and flute

**Mark McLean**, drums

**Barak Mori**, bass

**Program:** Pianist and vocalist Peter Cincotti, widely recognized for his talents as a composer, arranger and accomplished musician, performs with his band.

**Tickets:** \$22.00, \$32.00, and \$42.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door.

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