



RAMSEY LEWIS & JOHN PIZZARELLI

Straighten Up and Fly Right THE NAT KING COLE TRIBUTE

Nat King Cole broke the pop barrier with his smoky, smooth vocals, stringing along a huge number of solid hits right after his first "Straighten Up And Fly Right" soared up the charts in 1943. As a singer, he was called "the best friend a song ever had," but he was essentially a jazz performer at heart. Even those later tracks crafted for the pop charts belie a piano technique, vocal phrasings, and on-the-mark orchestration that are indebted to his early roots in jazz. RAMSEY LEWIS and JOHN PIZZARELLI have crafted a tribute to the titan of fifties vocal pop, from his hits along with those singular tracks of sophisticated cool jazz that have influenced their own careers.



"Pizzarelli remains a master of Nat King Cole cool, swinging such standards as 'Just In Time.'"

— THE SEATTLE TIMES

"It's a mark of how much Lewis understands what people want from a piece of music that he remains one of jazz's most broadly popular figures, yet still holds on to an unshakeable degree of respectability."

— BBC



QUOTES FROM BUYERS

"Straighten Up and Fly Right" was a no brainer for us to have. The pairing of two great artists who melded to provide such a sizzling yet endearing tribute does not happen all that frequently. We knew we would sell out and we did. Everyone in the group was professional and a delight to work with. I recommend you look at this show for your venue."

– **Tony Beadle, Executive Director, ROCKPORT MUSIC**

"Having the artistry and combined talents of Mr. Lewis and Pizzarelli on stage in this acoustically perfect setting was a treat and delight for the audience. Despite the beyond sold out capacity of the 617 seat concert hall, the listeners were engaged and warmed by the music in the intimate setting in which John and Ramsey navigated some of the most enjoyable tunes of a generation."

– **Chad D. Pedigo, Fine Arts Manager, NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE**

PRESS QUOTES

"Ramsey Lewis, with over 50 years of performance behind him, was the perfect choice to represent Cole at the piano. There is something about watching a master musician doing what he loves while creating great music every time he sits down. You can't beat his work on "For Sentimental Reasons" or "Sweet Lorraine." It didn't matter if it was a solo turn or just him backing Pizzarelli with the trio, Lewis is one of a dying breed of musician so when one gets a chance to see him perform you already know what the result is going to be."

– **MARYLAND THEATRE GUIDE**

"Who better to pay tribute to Cole than two giants of music, Ramsey Lewis and John Pizzarelli? Guitarist Pizzarelli handles the vocals, while piano legend Lewis takes on Cole's brilliant keyboard stylings. With stars like these doing full justice to the Cole catalog, the evening is guaranteed to be...Unforgettable."

– **MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA**

"What a great combination: the spirited piano work of Lewis, the lively singing and guitar of Pizzarelli, and the great book of songs associated with Nat Cole."

– **THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF MUSIC**

"We have a hard time imagining anyone recapturing the magic of sterling jazz pianist and pop-idol crooner Nat King Cole in quite the way that piano vet Ramsey Lewis and string-swing star John Pizzarelli do."

– **TIME OUT NEW YORK**

Repertoire Includes

Route 66

Smile

Hit That Jive Jack

This Will Make You Laugh

Sentimental Reasons

Nature Boy

Welcome to the Club

Sweet Lorraine

Portrait of Jenny

For All We Know

Straighten Up and Fly Right

Unforgettable

Baby Baby All The Time

Body and Soul

Paper Moon

Walking My Baby Back Home

Encore: Ramsey Lewis classics