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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BENEFIT CONCERT FOR FAMILY OF RAY KENNEDY TO FEATURE JOHN AND BUCKY PIZZARELLI

**Event: A Celebration of the Life & Music of Ray Kennedy -
featuring John & Bucky Pizzarelli with Martin Pizzarelli & Konrad Paszkudzi**

When: Friday, July 17, 2015 at 8 p.m.

Where: Sheldon Concert Hall, 3648 Washington Blvd.

Tickets: On sale June 8 at 10 a.m. Benefit tickets are \$125 and \$75 and include preferred seating and post-concert dessert reception. Concert only tickets: \$50 orchestra/\$40 balcony. All tickets available through MetroTix at 314-534-1111 or online at www.TheSheldon.org. For more information, call The Sheldon during normal business hours, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

ST. LOUIS - The Sheldon presents A Celebration of the Life & Music of Ray Kennedy – featuring guitarists John and Bucky Pizzarelli with Martin Pizzarelli on bass, and Konrad Paszkudzi on piano, Friday, July 17 at 8 p.m. at the Sheldon Concert Hall. Proceeds from this special evening will benefit the family of St. Louis native Ray Kennedy, who passed away on May 28 after a long battle with Multiple Sclerosis. Kennedy is survived by his wife, Eve Langner, and daughters Lauren and Brielle.

A highly respected jazz pianist who recorded over 100 albums with artists such as Sonny Stitt, David Sanborn, Freddie Hubbard and James Moody, Ray Kennedy was best known as the long-time pianist/arranger for the John Pizzarelli Trio. As a leading proponent of swing jazz and a gifted stride player, Kennedy was internationally recognized as one of today's most prolific and accomplished pianists. His style was often compared to a hybrid of Oscar Peterson, Erroll Garner and George Shearing.

Legendary guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli has enjoyed more than a seven-decade career. It began at the age of 17 with the Vaughn Monroe Orchestra and includes tours with Benny Goodman, 12 years in *The Tonight Show* Orchestra and collaborations with George Barnes, Zoot Sims, Les Paul and Stephane Grappelli to name a few. Bucky was an on-call session musician back when Rock and Roll was young and he can be heard on legendary songs such as Ben E. King's "Stand By Me," Ray Charles' "Georgia on My Mind" and Roberta Flack's "First Time Ever I Saw Your Face." At 89 years young, Bucky Pizzarelli continues to astound audiences across the globe.

The Boston Globe declared that John Pizzarelli is "reinvigorating the Great American Songbook and re-popularizing jazz," and the *Los Angeles Times* dubbed him "the genial genius of jazz guitar." John's multi-faceted career as jazz guitarist, vocalist and bandleader has teamed him with Rosemary Clooney, James Taylor, George Shearing and the Grammy Award-winning CD with Sir Paul McCartney, *Kisses on the Bottom*. He credits Nat "King" Cole's style as the foundation for his music and influences also include Duke Ellington, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Joao Gilberto and Frank Sinatra. For over a decade John toured the world with Ray Kennedy and he dedicates this concert to the life and music of Ray Kennedy.

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