Tony De Sare Brings jazz, rock, pop, piano to Brooks 1/8/2010

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CLEMSON — For years, residents of Upstate New York were spoiled with the talent of one of their very own.

Playing small clubs and venues, Tony DeSare, the loveable local, began to navigate his way around a piano and share his vocal ability with the public.

The savvy smooth serenader earned plenty of accolades while attending Ithaca College and soared to new heights with his band, "The Tony DeSare Trio," as the musical team continuously played to packed clubs and swanky lounges.

With a sexy, distinctive sound, DeSare's 2007 CD recording, "Last First Kiss," spotlights a refreshingly contemporary combination of originals and standards, from Prince's "Kiss" to Carole King's "I Feel the Earth Move."

The CD, which debuted at #8 on the Billboard chart and #5 on Amazon.com was featured on NPR's "Weekend Edition Saturday" while DeSare has performed on the CBS Early Show, NBC Weekend, in London, Australia, Japan, all over the United States and in Hong Kong.

Critics across the board agree, his sound and show are two things, that if given the opportunity, the public should not miss.

"With his dark hair, bright brown eyes and toothpaste smile that rarely fades," raved The New York Times, "DeSare is one of the most promising young male performers. He is a Sinatra acolyte in his early 30s who sings Prince as well as Johnny Mercer."

According to USA Today, "DeSare belongs to a group of neo-traditional upstarts stretching from Harry Connick Jr. to Michael Bublé and Jamie Cullum. DeSare covers old and newer pop and jazz standards without smothering or over-thinking the material."

His banter during each concert displays his infectious charm, his wry wit and robust ability to graciously conquer those black and white keys.

"A child of the '80s and a member of what is the last generation to witness the direct and powerful influence of radio on 20th Century popular culture, Tony's latest recording is a reflection of that time," said Rick Goodstein, a Clemson University jazz expert. "Radio Show (latest release) embraces a variety of eras in American popular music, all tied together by the voices of radio announcers."

His sound is romantic, swinging and sensual, but what sets Tony apart is his ability to write original material that sounds fresh and, at the same time, blends seamlessly with the Great American Songbook. He has the capability to glide from a standard by George Gershwin to a contemporary classic by Bob Dylan or Phil Collins to one of his inventive original songs with ease, according to critics.

DeSare will bring his upbeat show to The Brooks Center on Jan. 14 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for kids.

Call the box office at (864) 656-7787 for ticket information or visit www.clemson.edu/brooks.

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Tony DeSare plays a mean piano while he belts out some all-time favorites and many of his own jazz creations.