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VOCALIST BILL COTÉ
RELEASES DEBUT CD “WHERE DO YOU START”
WITH THE TAMIR HENDELMAN TRIO

RELEASE DATE: APRIL 15, 2014

Bill Coté is a perfect example of the adage “good things come to those who wait.” With his sonorous voice and impeccable sense of swing, Bill infuses a lifetime of experience into each song on his debut CD, **“Where Do You Start.”**

Arranged by **Tamir Hendelman**, the award-winning pianist who is a regular with the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra and who has performed and recorded with likes of Barbra Streisand and Natalie Cole, as well as having his own successful solo career, **“Where Do You Start”** also features some of Southern California’s most notable jazz musicians, including **Joe LaBarbera** on drums, **Bob Sheppard** on sax and flute, and **Graham Dechter** on guitar, as well New York City’s first call bassist, **Martin Wind**.

Although Bill is a successful businessman and lawyer, he also has deep roots in the jazz world and has been singing and performing informally for quite a long time. A pianist from a very young age, Bill’s life has centered around music as much as it has around his business career. He has been an avid jazz supporter and counts among his close friends several jazz luminaries.

But it wasn’t until a jazz cruise in 2010 that Bill’s longtime dream of making his own CD was re-ignited. It was on that cruise that he met Tamir. They struck up a conversation, and, because of Bill’s deep knowledge and

love of the music, Tamir offered to accompany him on a tune. Tamir was blown away by his rich basso profundo voice and strongly encouraged Bill to make his own recording. That was all the urging he needed. The result was the release of this beautiful set of jazz standards.

Each of the songs he chose for this project have been part of his life for a long time and resonate with him for a myriad of different reasons. Take for example the Michel Legrand/Marilyn and Alan Bergman ballad **What Are You Doing The Rest Of Your Life**. Instead of asking his wife of 43 years to marry him in the traditional way, Bill proposed to her in the kitchen by singing this song. Or listen to **Indian Summer**, the Victor Herbert & Al Dubin tune, which Bill dedicated to the memory of his mother, a Bostonian who couldn't pronounce a hard *R* and always wanted to go down to the Cape to enjoy the *Indian Summa*. Then there's **L.A. State of Mind**, his witty, localized version of Billy Joel's *New York State of Mind*, which he included because it has consistently been a crowd-pleaser whenever he performs it live.

Whatever Bill sings, whether a swing tune or ballad, he suffuses it with the heart and soul that comes from a rich life full of achievements and a deep emotional connection to the music that touches audiences in a way that is both personal and universal. His poignant rendition of Charles deForest's **When Do The Bells Ring For Me** – a song written for Tony Bennett -- is a shining example of how Bill Coté consistently draws inspiration from the greats and then makes each composition his own, sung with emotive honesty and free of artifice.

"Where Do You Start" is an apt name for this debut CD, because Bill is really asking, how does he even begin to convey his lifelong passion for this music? The answer is right here -- in this heartfelt and beautifully crafted album.

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