ATLANTA – The Johnny Mercer Tribute concert, featuring the works of one of the 20th century’s most prolific songwriters, will be presented on Friday, Feb. 7 at 8 p.m., at Georgia State University’s Rialto Center for the Arts.

Modern jazz icons—renowned hard bop trumpeter/vocalist Joe Gransden and Grammy-nominated vocalist Tierney Sutton—will accompany the Georgia State Jazz Band to perform a selection of Mercer’s innumerable hits as well as new arrangements of some of his unpublished works.

Mercer, a Georgia native, wrote the lyrics for more than 1,400 songs, including four Academy Award-winners. The light-hearted “You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby” and “Jeepers Creepers,” “Hooray for Hollywood” and the timeless “Moon River.” Mercer’s legacy continues with new arrangements created from the unpublished works, housed with his papers and memorabilia in the Special Collections & Archives of the Georgia State Library.

Tickets start at $20 and are available at the Rialto Center’s box office, (404) 413-9TIX (9849) or events.rialtocenter.gsu.edu. Group and student discounts are offered are available. Senior citizens will receive a 50% discount for this show. $5 tickets are available for Georgia State students the week of show. The Rialto Center for the Arts is at 80 Forsyth Street, NW, Atlanta. Free (validated) parking is provided for this Rialto Series show at the 100 Peachtree Parking Garage (formerly the Equitable deck) on Fairlie Street. This tribute concert is made possible with funding from The Johnny Mercer Foundation. Proceeds from the concert will go toward a Jazz Studies scholarship.

Photos are available via Dropbox at https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ejzvdikdbw675f4/AAAZ5xJJDLDjkrEN8AyW68hha?dl=0
Johnny Mercer
Co-founder of Capitol Records and eighteen-time Academy Award nominee, Johnny Mercer deserves a celebration in his honor. Best known as a lyricist, Mercer was also a composer and performer. Mercer wrote the lyrics or music to more than fourteen hundred songs and was the winner of four Oscars. Johnny Mercer was a native of Savannah, Georgia, so it is only appropriate to have a night honoring this music icon at the Rialto Center of the Arts.

Joe Gransden
Gransden comes from a family full of musical talent. His father was a wonderful singer and show stopping pianist, his grandfather spent his life as a professional trumpet player, and on his mother’s side of the family was the piano virtuoso Carmen Cavallero. Hailing from New York City, Gransden has already performed worldwide and released 14 CDs under his own name. With Gransden’s own trumpet skills and take not singing voice it is not a surprise Gransden has quite a fan base in Atlanta and New York.

Tierney Sutton
A 9-time Grammy nominee, Sutton has received nominations for “Best Jazz Vocal Album”- for every project she has released for the last decade. Tierney has headlined in recent years at The Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center and Jazz At Lincoln Center. She can also be heard on film and television soundtracks including that of The Academy Award-nominated film “The Cooler” as well as on television commercials (BMW, Green Giant, Yoplait Yogurt, Coke).

Marco Maritz
Maritz, a master’s degree student in the Jazz Studies program at Georgia State, is a Graduate Research Assistant in the Georgia State University Library’s Special Collections & Archives. His project as a GRA has been to create new arrangements for unpublished songs written by Johnny Mercer. Maritz’s source materials have ranged from arranger's lead sheets to undated draft lyrics and musical notation on scraps of notepaper. Maritz, through his arrangements, is bringing this hidden work of Johnny Mercer to the public for the first time.

About the Rialto Center for the Arts
The Rialto Center for the Arts at Georgia State University is the cultural centerpiece of downtown, located in the heart of Atlanta’s historic Fairlie-Poplar district. Thanks to Georgia State University acquiring and refurbishing our dilapidated building in 1993, and ultimately revitalizing the district, the Rialto has stood at the corner of Forsyth and Luckie Streets for over 100 years. Today, our intimate, 833-seat performing arts venue is home to the Rialto Series, featuring the best of indigenous and international jazz, world music and contemporary dance, as well as Georgia State’s School of Music performances. The Rialto is the go-to venue in downtown Atlanta for other arts organizations’ performances, visiting production companies and independent film screenings. In addition to the highly acclaimed Rialto Series, the Rialto is committed to serving the community through its extensive education and outreach programs. Our mission is to inspire, educate and entertain diverse audiences by presenting innovative and exceptional arts programming and cultivating community partnerships. The Rialto earned its reputation as the place where Atlanta meets the world through its one-of-a-kind international programming, bringing together diverse communities and creating conversations about culture, art and history in the process. Visit us at rialto.gsu.edu to see all of our exceptional offerings!

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