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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fall Jazz Fest 2009: Jeff Richardi and Award-Winning Foxboro Jazz Groups

Foxboro native, Jeff Richardi, will be the featured guest artist at Foxboro's Fall Jazz Fest on Thursday, November 12, at 7:00 p.m., in the Foxboro High School auditorium. The concert will showcase all of the jazz groups in the Foxboro music program, including the FHS Jazz Lab Band, the FHS Jazz Ensemble, the FHS Jazz Choir, and the FHS Small Jazz Choir. "The Fall Jazz Fest allows our jazz students to interact musically and personally with a professional guest artist, and to perform a wide range of jazz styles and traditions," says Steve Massey, Director of Music for the Foxboro Public Schools. Given the excellence of the Foxboro music and jazz program, the Fall Jazz Fest also provides a wonderful opportunity for area residents to hear outstanding jazz right in our backyard. Tickets are available at the door for Jazz Fest are \$6 for adults; \$3 for students and seniors; children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult.

Jeff Richardi began his musical career at age 10. During his time in the Foxboro Music program, he performed with many ensembles including the wind ensemble, jazz ensemble, jazz choir, clarinet choir, and flute choir. His high school honors include two "Outstanding Soloist" awards presented by Wynton Marsalis at the annual *Essentially Ellington* festival of 2004 and 2005, and an invitation to perform in the High School All-Eastern Jazz Ensemble in Baltimore, Maryland.

After graduating Foxboro High School in 2005, Jeff attended McGill University in Montreal, Quebec for his Bachelor's degree in Jazz Performance. There he studied saxophone with Remi Bolduc and Frank Lozano, and jazz arranging with Joe Sullivan. Jeff was a member of the McGill Jazz Orchestra for three years as well as the Nova Quartet, a band that won 2nd place in the 2007 *Jazz en Raffale young artist* competition of Quebec. Jeff was also a member of the Thundertones, a jazz quintet that was featured at the Montreal Jazz Festival in June 2008, and the New Groove Orchestra, a ten-piece funk/r&b ensemble that was also featured at the same jazz festival. At McGill, Jeff was awarded the *Schulich Scholar* Award in 2006 for musical achievement, and graduated in May of 2009 with an "Outstanding Achievement in Jazz Saxophone" distinction.

Jeff is currently attending Purchase College for his Master's in Jazz Performance where he is studying saxophone with Eric Alexander, and composition with John Abercrombie. He hopes to pursue a career in performing, composing, and teaching music.

The Foxboro Jazz Program, under the direction of Steve Massey and George Murphy, continues to excel. The Foxboro High School Jazz Ensemble is one of the premier high school jazz bands in the New England region, consistently earning top place awards in both regional and national competitions,

including their recent gold medals in the Massachusetts unit of the International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE). The Jazz Ensemble recently was selected to compete in the Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition and Festival at Lincoln Center in New York City in May, 2009.

Past guest artists in the jazz program have included Vincent Gardner, Kurt Bacher, Erica vonKleist, Ernie Watts, Alan Dawson, John Fedchock, Mike Monaghan, Jon Faddis, Jerry Bergonzi, Phil Wilson, Jeff Stout, Cecelia Smith, Andy MaGee, Dick Johnson, Grey Sargent, Ted Casher, Kim Richmond, Jeff Holmes, Clay Jenkins, Herb Pomeroy, Dave Pietro, Tiger Okoshi, Wycliffe Gordon, Bobby Shew, Victor Goines, Greg Hopkins and vocalists Candy Stout and Rebecca Parris.

For more information, please visit www.foxmusica.org.

The Foxboro High School Jazz Fest is sponsored in part by a grant from the Foxboro Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, state agency.

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