

THE NEW YORK POPS

SKITCH HENDERSON FOUNDER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SKITCH HENDERSON: A JAZZ TRIBUTE AT NEW MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL IN CONNECTICUT ON JANUARY 17. FIRST OF TWO MUSICAL TRIBUTES TO SKITCH HENDERSON

The New York Pops and Carnegie Hall also to celebrate Skitch Henderson's life and music at Carnegie Hall on February 6

NEW YORK – Jazz legends, public officials, and devoted friends of Skitch Henderson will gather on Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 7:00PM at New Milford High School in Connecticut to celebrate his remarkable life and musical legacy.

The jazz musicians performing include vibraphonist **Peter Appleyard**, guitarist **Gene Bertoncini**, violinist **Sara Caswell**, clarinetist **Anat Cohen**, pianist **Ray Kennedy**, percussionist **Sherrie Maricle**, saxophonist **Tommy Newsom**, guitarist **Bucky Pizzarelli**, and bassist **Noriko Ueda**. The New Milford High School Concert Band under the direction of Jonathan Grauer will also perform.



Skitch Henderson
Photo: Steve J. Sherman

Scheduled to speak are Connecticut Governor **M. Jodi Rell**, Congresswoman **Nancy L. Johnson**, New Milford Mayor **Pat Murphy**, Western Connecticut State University President **James W. Schmotter**, Chairman of New Milford Hospital Board of Directors and former member of the Board of Directors of The New York Pops **James E. Preston**, actress **Mia Farrow**, Hunt Hill Farm Trust Executive Director **Susan York**, and University of Connecticut student **Jennifer Wrenn**.

Skitch Henderson: A Jazz Tribute is free and open to the public. Reserved tickets are available by calling 860-354-2926. Remaining tickets will be available at the door at 6:00PM on Tuesday, January 17. New Milford High School is located at 388 Danbury Road in New Milford, Connecticut.

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The New York Pops and Carnegie Hall will also celebrate the life and music of Skitch Henderson with a free concert in Carnegie Hall's Isaac Stern Auditorium in New York City on Monday, February 6, 2006 at 4:00PM. Tickets will be available to the public beginning at 2:00PM on that date. Event details will be released at a later date.

Donations in Skitch Henderson's memory may be made to The New York Pops at www.newyorkpops.org or by calling 212-765-7677. Donations may also be made to the Hunt Hill Farm Trust by visiting www.hunthillfarmtrust.org or by calling 860-354-2926.

The event in New Milford on January 17 will feature some of the finest musicians on the contemporary jazz scene, all of whom performed frequently with Skitch Henderson.

Peter Appleyard is one of the world's top vibraphonists. He worked with Benny Goodman in most of the major concert halls throughout the world.

Gene Bertoncini is one of the preeminent jazz guitarists active today. His fluid technique and lyricism have won him international praise and accolades as the "Segovia of Jazz."

Sara Caswell is an award-winning jazz and classical violinist. Currently a member of The New York Pops and pursuing a master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music, Sara has been a featured soloist with The New York Pops and with Skitch Henderson on numerous recordings.

Clarinetist Anat Cohen, originally from Tel Aviv, has traveled the world from Japan to Colombia. She is rapidly becoming a major force in the world music and jazz scene.

Pianist Ray Kennedy performs with John Pizzarelli and can be heard on John's latest Telarc release.

Sherrie Maricle leads The Diva Jazz Orchestra and her quintet, Five Play, from the drum set. She is a member of The New York Pops and is also the orchestra's Director of Education.

Tommy Newsom, saxophone, joined the *Tonight Show* in 1962. He has arranged and composed music for many performers, including Skitch Henderson.

Bucky Pizzarelli has been a fixture in jazz clubs and the studios since the 1950's. He and Skitch played together on a number of recordings.

Noriko Ueda is the bassist for The Diva Jazz Orchestra. Her impressive list of performance and recording credits in film and television includes appearances on BET's *Jazz Central* (1998), on PBS's *Times Square Transfer* (1999), and in the documentary film *Jamming* (1996).

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Skitch Henderson was a one-man celebration of twentieth-century American music. Born in 1918 in Birmingham, England, with the name Lyle Russell Cedric Henderson, Skitch went on to successfully transform himself into a popular American icon and, in doing so, managed to be at the center of every phenomenon in American popular music and culture. Live performances, movies, television, radio – Skitch did it all, and all his work shone with his own special brand of joyful enthusiasm.

In 1983 Skitch founded The New York Pops to share his passion for music by bringing the more accessible symphonic pops fare to a broader audience. The New York Pops is now the largest independent symphonic pops orchestra in the United States, and its subscription season is one of the most successful at its home at New York City's Carnegie Hall.

Skitch's partner in these activities and more was his wife Ruth, whom he married on February 7, 1958. Since 1972, the couple owned and operated The Silo, Inc., which comprises a store, an art gallery, and a cooking school in New Milford, Connecticut. In 2003 Ruth and Skitch co-founded the Hunt Hill Farm Trust, an effort to preserve their farm's land and buildings and to celebrate Americana in music, art and literature through the creation of a living museum.

Skitch died on November 1, 2005 at his home in New Milford at the age of 87. He is survived by Ruth Henderson as well as his children, Heidi Maria and Hans Christian, and four grandchildren.

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