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MARANO AND MOTLEY JAZZ UP CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT UD

DAYTON, Ohio — Yuletide music will take on a whole new flavor when jazz vocalist Nancy Marano and pianist Gary Motley join forces with the Dayton Jazz Ensemble to spice up “A Jazzy Christmas Concert” at the University of Dayton.

The performance, which is part of “A Contemporary, Jazz and Ethnic Music Collaborative Concert Series,” will be at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre. Admission is free and open to the public.

Holiday jazz numbers such as “We Three Kings,” “The Christmas Song” and “Xmas Morning” will highlight a versatile mix that also includes non-seasonal numbers such as “Steppin’ Out,” “The Bone Zone” and “Not Tonight, I’ve Got a Headache.”

Marano, known for a powerful but smooth voice, performs at jazz concerts and festivals nationally and abroad and has appeared regularly at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York since 1988. She has recorded with Michel Legrand, Benny Carter, Gerry Mulligan and other jazz artists and most recently with the Metropole Orchestra in Holland to produce If You Could See Us Now! Marano fits her busy performing schedule around her “day jobs” as jazz educator at the Manhattan School of Music and William Paterson College in New Jersey.

Atlanta-based jazz pianist, composer and educator Gary Motley is also a regular at national and international jazz festivals. His musical career includes performances with popular jazz artists such as Mel Torme, Nancy Wilson and Wynton Marsalis; a number of top awards in jazz competitions; appearances on movie soundtracks; and formation of the Gary Motley Trio performing ensemble and the Gary Motley Music production company.

His most recent CD, Echoes Of..., features tributes to Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald,
Billie Holiday, Dave Brubeck and Frank Sinatra. Motley teaches jazz improvisation at Emory University in Atlanta.

In addition to their appearance at Boll Theatre, Marano and Motley will also offer vocal and piano clinics to students from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. earlier that afternoon in Reichard Hall.

Jazz Ensemble Director Willie L. Morris, III, assistant professor of music at UD, said the collaborative concert series was created in honor of UD’s sesquicentennial anniversary “to celebrate with music the growth of diversity the University of Dayton has made over the past 150 years” and “to give people in Dayton an opportunity to experience more jazz.”

Founded in 1850 by the Society of Mary, UD has become a national leader in Catholic higher education, graduating students who are prepared to succeed professionally and who know the value of service and leadership to community. The sesquicentennial celebration, which will run through May 2001, will include song and dance, religion and humor, and events that range from film to philosophy.

A calendar of events being held in celebration of UD’s sesquicentennial can be found on the Web at http://www.udayton.edu/150/.

For more information about the series, call Willie Morris at (937) 229-3994.

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For media interviews, contact Gary Motley at (404) 298-0115 and Nancy Marano at (937) 944-6159.