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‘Jazz Piano Legend’, American Treasure Turns 90: **SIR GEORGE SHEARING, THE MUSIC LEGEND, COMMEMORATES A MILESTONE AUG. 13**

(Lee, MA, Aug. 13, 2009)---By all standards, Sir George Shearing (www.georgeshearing.net) is a music legend and on Thurs., Aug. 13, the original jazz icon turns 90 years-old.

Few of his musical generation remain and the music giants who were his collaborators, like Mel Tormé, Peggy Lee and Nat King Cole, to name a few, have all passed.

But, these days, Sir George, who calls home, at least for summer, a bucolic farm in western Massachusetts, remains very much in tune with his musical roots and although he no longer actively performs (he retreated from public shows five years ago) his presence, via “The George Shearing Sound,” on stages across the world, remains vital.

Shearing, blind since birth, retired the world famous George Shearing Quintet over 30 years ago, but it has recently been encored with Shearing protégé Charlie Shoemake and a new touring group, “The Sounds of Shearing.”

Every quintet member is a protégé of some iconic talent, from Miles Davis to Les Brown.

Born in London, Shearing’s father was a coal porter and his mother cleaned trains. He started playing piano at age three and came to the U.S. in 1947.

His first big hit was “September in the Rain” which accompanied the Shearing composed classic, “Lullaby of Birdland,” written in 1952 in honor of jazz great Charlie Bird and the famed Birdland nightclub.

Together with Mel Tormé, Shearing scored two Grammy® Awards and over the years he has received many other awards, including an OBE (Order of the British Empire) from Queen Elizabeth II, the Horatio Alger Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the BBC.

In 2007, HRH Queen Elizabeth II personally bestowed the title of Knight on Shearing for his contribution to music.

During his long career, Shearing has written over 300 compositions and released 100 albums.

His first album, *Piano Solo*, was released in 1947, and one of his most famous albums/collaborations, *Nat King Cole Sings/George Shearing Plays*, was issued by Capitol in 1961 and Shearing has had albums on the Billboard charts from the 1950s thru the 1990s.

Jack Kerouac’s classic novel, *On The Road*, features a glimpse into a typical Shearing concert.

When he began in London, Shearing was making five dollars a week.

“What a journey it has been from that pub to Buckingham Palace,” he recently said.

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