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Contact: Jennifer Acosta-Scott
817-694-2261
jennifer@jenniferacostascott.com

Playing for Paws: International Jazz Group to Perform for Animal Rescue Benefit

DALLAS – The sweet sounds of jazz will fill the air Feb. 27 as a renowned musical ensemble takes to the stage for a good cause.

Award-winning jazz vocalist Rick DellaRatta and his international band, Jazz for Peace, will hold a special benefit concert at 7 p.m. at the Citizen restaurant, 3825 Oak Lawn Drive. The performance will benefit Animal Guardians of America, a no-kill animal rescue organization.

A premier jazz artist in his own right, DellaRatta formed Jazz for Peace in 2002. The ensemble, consisting of talented musicians from across the globe, subsequently performed at the United Nations. Since then, Jazz for Peace has given over 75 concerts benefiting charitable causes. They are also a regular fixture on New York City's Upper West Side as part of its weekly "Jazz on the Park" series. DellaRatta was recently honored as one of the top jazz vocalists of all time by author Scott Yanow, who featured DellaRatta in his upcoming book, "The Jazz Singers."

Founded in January 1999, Animal Guardians of America (AGA) is a nonprofit animal rescue that shelters unwanted pets in the Dallas area. Its mission is to educate the public on animal protection issues and to prevent cruelty to animals. Currently, the rescue does not have a shelter and its foster homes are full. Proceeds from this concert will help Animal Guardians of America to better serve the community and to work toward its goal of building a shelter facility.

"Animal Guardians of America is thrilled to be working with Jazz for Peace in raising funds for abused and neglected animals," said Annette Lambert, AGA founder. "We are so thankful for this opportunity to increase our visibility and to inform the community of our goal to acquire land in central Dallas, and build a no-kill shelter for these animals who deserve healthy and loving homes."

Advance concert tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at www.jazzforpeace.org. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$30. For more information on adopting a pet from Animal Guardians of America, please visit their Web site at www.animalguardians.com or call 972-398-2123.