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ARTIST BIO: SWEET BABY JAMES – THE MUSIC OF JAMES TAYLOR

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Bob Stillman (Lead Vocalist, Band Arrangements) – The Sweet Baby James concert stars the multi-talented and multifaceted Bob Stillman who has lit up some of New York’s best-known stages as writer, musician and actor. He’s been nominated twice for Tony Awards---first as actor, composer and onstage pianist in “Dirty Blonde,” and later as one of the songwriters for “Urban Cowboy.” Bob has also brought his uniquely soulful original songs to such popular New York venues as Joe’s Pub, The Cutting Room, Wilson’s and Elaine’s. His just released debut CD “Come Down Angel,” co-produced with Tom Corwin (whose credits include work with Bonnie Raitt and Stevie Wonder) has been steadily attracting listeners, and was selected as one of host Zoe Montana’s “Essentials” on radioio.com’s Acoustic channel. Featuring solid grooves, soaring melodies and biting lyrics, Bob’s songs combine folk-rock, jazz, pop and classical influences to create a style that is deeply personal, intimate, sophisticated and emotionally rich. Last season Bob co-starred with Christine Ebersole in the acclaimed Broadway musical "Grey Gardens." As George Gold Strong, real life friend and accompanist to Big Edie Beale, Bob once again has the opportunity to combine his piano playing, acting and singing in a brilliant new piece of theater. Born in New York City, Bob studied piano and composition at the Juilliard and Manhattan Schools beginning at age 9. He went on to graduate with honors in music from Princeton. His other New York stage credits include Molina in "Kiss of the Spider Woman" (opposite Vanessa Williams), and the dying singer/songwriter in the cult off-Broadway hit "The Last Session." He's also been featured in some of the coolest new musical theater pieces by such new-wave composers as Adam Guettel (“Saturn Returns” at the Public Theater, released on Nonesuch as “Myths and Hymns”) and Michael John LaChiusa (“Hello Again” at Lincoln) Kids of a certain age (and possibly their parents) will remember Bob as Reed on Nickelodeon's "Allegra's Window," where he learned not only how to talk to puppets, but how to write songs for them as well. (They sing funny...but then, that's the point.)

Connie James (Featured Vocalist) – Connie James has spent the last 20 years as a club and studio singer in New York. She has also been nominated for a Pixie Award for Best Song/Soundtrack in a Motion Picture for the song “Three Words”, which she co-wrote and recorded with Composer/Pianist Onaje Allen Gumbs, for the short subject film “Whoa”. The film received the Angel Award at the Sundance Film Festival in 2003. The film was also screened at the Cannes Film Festival last year. A classically trained singer with a degree in music from the University of South Carolina, several years ago Ms. James decided to add acting to her repertoire of talents, landing roles on NBC’s 9 Law & Order”, “Law & Order: Special Victim’s Unit” and “Homicide: Life on the Street”. Ms. James’ voice can be heard as the announcer in commercials for “Partnership for a Drug Free America” and for Denny’s “Skillets for Breakfast”.

Sweet Baby James Band Members

Tim McLafferty (Drums) – The son of a painter and sculptor, Tim grew up in a free thinking environment where he began playing drums at age four. In the last 20 years he's played in over a dozen Broadway shows, his favorites have been Urinetown and Grey Gardens. This spring he performed in Happiness at Lincoln Center, the summer found him playing in the premier of the Philip Glass score for The Bacchae at Shakespeare in the Park. Active in all genres of music, with a focus on jazz and improvisation, Tim has performed with Karl Berger, Mark Helias, David Liebman, Graham Haynes, Kenny Wessel, Badal Roy, Ingrid Sertso, Mick Rossi, Eric Friedlander, Kermit Driscoll, and many others. Also an active poet, his poems have been set by composers Mick Rossi and Scot Munson. myspace.com/timmclafferty

Stephen Benson (Guitar) – Stephen Benson is very active on the New York City freelance scene. He is comfortable in a variety of musical settings from jazz and classical music to Broadway, rhythm and blues, bluegrass and klezmer music. He has performed and or recorded with people as diverse as Phoebe Snow, John Sebastian, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Natalie Cole, Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey, The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Lukes and the American Symphony Orchestra. He currently performs on Broadway in the orchestra pits of The Lion King, Chicago, Mary Poppins and Hair. He is on the jazz faculty at Montclair State University and lives in NYC with his wife and 12 year old twins.

Brian Cassier (Bass) – Brian Cassier has performed in numerous chamber music ensembles, chamber orchestras and orchestras throughout the United States, Europe, South America and Asia with such noted artists as José Carreras, James DePriest, Lucas Foss, Kurt Masur, Mstislav Rostropovich and Robert Shaw, and with ensembles such as The American Symphony Orchestra, and The Orchestra of St. Lukes. He has performed with the Festival of Baroque Music with Robert Conant. He is active as a jazz and studio recording musician for record, film, television, Broadway and has performed and recorded with Metallica, Björk, Clark Terry, Liza Minelli, Andrea Bocelli, Enya, Alana Davis, Audra McDonald, Pat Metheny, Antonio Banderas, Ciaran Sheehan, Chita Rivera and Steve Ross to name a few. Brian has been orchestra contractor / music coordinator for ABC, CBS, Atlantic, Ligeti Artists and Warner/Electra. He most recently was performing in the Broadway show “Gypsy” with Patti LuPone.

Cellist Christopher Glansdorp (Cello) – Cellist Christopher Glansdorp began studies in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1975. After receiving performance degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the University of Akron, he joined the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Florida. As co-principal cellist for three years Chris performed on their tours of Japan and the United Kingdom and their first three CD releases. Currently in his tenth season as Principal Cello with the Palm Beach Opera Orchestra, Chris also maintains an active freelance schedule performing regularly across the entire South Florida region with ensembles including the Palm Beach Symphony, the Boca Raton Symphonia, the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Southwest Florida Symphony. Chris has performed with the Akron Symphony, the Des Moines Metro Opera, the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra, the Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival, and in local stops of Broadway touring productions including The Light in the Piazza, The Producers, The Lion King, Beauty and the Beast, Showboat, and more. A prolific studio musician, Chris is active in South Florida's recording industry and is a member of The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (The Recording Academy). He can be heard on hundreds of albums including those of Busta Rhymes, Barbra Streisand & Barry Gibb, Scott Stapp (from the band Creed), Julio Iglesias, Plácido Domingo, Michael Jackson, and Gloria Estefan. He also has solo credits on recordings of Shakira, Cristian Castro, Clay Aiken, JD Natasha, Juan Luis Guerra, the 2000 & 2001 Latin Grammy Record of the Year winners Alejandro Sanz and La Ley, and is a featured guest artist on the 2007 Latin Grammy winner Ricky Martin: MTV Unplugged, playing four songs with string quartet and three songs as solo cellist.