



**The Toronto Jazz Orchestra presents
"Thank you Thad"
Celebrating music written and inspired by Thad Jones
Monday, October 1, 9:30 pm
The Rex Hotel, 194 Queen Street West**

For immediate release – Toronto, September 24, 2012: The Toronto Jazz Orchestra (TJO) kicks off its 15th season on Monday, October 1 with a performance called "Thank You Thad", 9:30 pm at The Rex Hotel, 194 Queen Street West. The evening will feature two sets of big band music written and inspired by Thad Jones – tunes as performed by the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra along with tunes written by composers influenced by Thad Jones' unique compositional style. Cover for "Thank you Thad" is \$10.

"As we celebrate our 15th season, it seems appropriate to pay tribute to Thad Jones' outstanding contribution to the big band canon," said TJO Artistic Director Josh Grossman. "Thad's music – and the opportunity to perform his music – was one of the driving forces behind my decision to form the band while I was still a student in the University of Toronto's Jazz Performance program. His writing sounds just as fresh now as it did back then."

Audience members can expect to hear some of Thad's most well-known tunes (such as *Three and One*, *To You*, *Tiptoe*, *Greetings and Salutations* and more) along with music by other composers who contributed works to the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra (now known as the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra) such as Michael Abene and Bob Brookmeyer. Also featured will be works by local composers such as Christian Overton and Josh Grossman, who list Thad Jones as an important influence.

"Thank you Thad" is the first of three Monday night performances at The Rex for the TJO this fall. On November 5th, the band presents "Singers Unite", featuring emerging vocal heavyweights Sophia Perlman and Alex Samaras. On December 3rd, "Dance Party" will feature two sets of dance music ranging from swing classics to contemporary pop.

The **Toronto Jazz Orchestra (TJO)** was formed in 1998 by Artistic Director and Conductor Josh Grossman and is made up of some of the top emerging jazz talent in Toronto. The TJO performs regularly at the Rex Hotel, has released three CDs and has collaborated with such artists as Kurt Elling, Seamus Blake, Ingrid Jensen and Geoffrey Keezer. Other special presentations have included the music of Phil Nimmons, the Stan Kenton Orchestra, Duke Ellington, Buddy Rich, Gil Evans' *Miles Ahead* and the Radiohead Jazz Project.

For more information on the October 1 presentation of "Thank you Thad" please call (416) 899-5299, email thetjo@mnsi.net, or visit www.thetjo.com.

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