

2-22-1994

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94-55

February 22, 1994

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEL TORMÉ AND EIU JAZZ ENSEMBLE TO PERFORM AT SANGAMON STATE

CHARLESTON -- One of America's music legends, Mel Tormé, will appear Friday, March 4 at the Sangamon State University Auditorium. Appearing with Tormé will be the award-winning Eastern Illinois University Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Al Horney.

Consolidated Communications Inc. (CCI) of Mattoon is sponsoring the event, which has special meaning since both CCI and EIU are celebrating their 100th anniversaries this year.

The event marks Tormé's second appearance under the CCI banner at Sangamon State. He was the featured guest artist at the premier EIU Jazz Concert series in 1988. Subsequent concerts featured the late, great Dizzy Gillespie in 1990 and jazz vocalist Diane Schuur in 1992.

"We're delighted that Consolidated has continued its support of EIU's jazz studies program through these concerts," said Horney, the university's jazz studies

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MEL TORMÉ AND EIU JAZZ ENSEMBLE

program director.

The Jazz Ensemble has received numerous awards in the past several years, including outstanding performance citations at the Notre Dame Collegiate Jazz Festival. The group was designated Downbeat Magazine's "DB Award Winner" in 1990.

Showtime is 8:15 p.m. For ticket information, call the Sangamon State University box office at (217) 786-6160, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Ticket prices are \$18.50 (main floor); \$17.50 (mezzanine); and \$15.50 (balcony).