

Swinging young Sinatra coming to Shuler on Nov. 19

By Tim Keller – for the Comet | Posted: Friday, November 14, 2014 5:00 am

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RATON – Young New York City jazz pianist and singer Tony DeSare should be plenty warmed up by the time he arrives at the Shuler Theater for his Wednesday night (11/19) Raton concert: he's been averaging five shows each week as he's worked his way across the American Midwest.

His schedule evokes an American road-map: the six shows preceding Raton's are in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, and Oklahoma. Like many entertainers on this circuit, the Shuler Theater draws him to his farthest point south and west before he turns back through Colorado and points north and east.

The Shuler's Steinway grand piano will get its second big workout of the season as DeSare plays songs from his four albums, three of which have reached Billboard's jazz top ten. Downbeat magazine named him a "Rising Star" vocalist.

The New York Times called DeSare "...a lean baby Sinatra with burning brown eyes and flashing teeth... his sly performance establishes the kind of connection to a younger generation that has helped make Michael Bublé a heartthrob among upscale women in their teens and early 20s...his intonation and enunciation are impeccable."

His appeal to women may explain the Tony DeSare product line that includes not only CDs but also t-shirts and autographed posters.

USA Today said, "DeSare belongs to a group of neo-traditional upstarts stretching from Harry Connick Jr. to Michael Bublé and Jamie Cullum. But this singer/songwriter/pianist's approach is refreshingly instinctual, blending Connick's smooth virtuosity with a rugged, relaxed quality. DeSare covers old and newer pop and jazz standards without smothering or over-thinking the material. And on a few classic-style originals, he exhibits a similarly breezy charm as a tune-smith."

A listen to "Kiss," his most popular song on iTunes, suggests comparisons to the singing of Tony Bennett



Jazz pianist and singer Tony DeSare—"a lean baby Sinatra with burning brown eyes and flashing teeth"—brings his touring show to Raton's Shuler Theater Wednesday night (Nov. 19).

or Nat King Cole, while DeSare's agile piano accompaniment swings with dancing syncopation.

His Shuler concert may include some songs from last year's tour called "My Generation: The Contemporary American Songbook," in which DeSare performed classics by George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, and Cole Porter alongside newer classics by Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, and Bob Dylan.

He's performed at Carnegie Hall and opened for Don Rickles in Las Vegas. In addition to countless thousands of miles crisscrossing America, his shows have taken him to Australia, Japan, and Hong Kong.

Wednesday night's 7:00 p.m. Shuler Theater concert is the third in this year's Performing Arts Series presented by Raton Arts & Humanities Council. Reserved-seat tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 seniors, \$10 students; they're available at the door or in advance at Old Pass Gallery, 145 S. 1st St., (575) 445-2052.

Raton's 100-year-old gem, the Shuler Theater, continues to act as a magnet attracting world-class touring entertainers, including a lean baby Sinatra with burning brown eyes.