



**Colden Auditorium
LeFrak Concert Hall
Goldstein Theatre**

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NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Kupferberg Center Performances Presents
FREDDY COLE
In LeFrak Concert Hall @ Queens College
Saturday, May 1, 2010 at 8 PM**

– Jazz pianist's suave, elegant vocals bring a sophisticated note to Queens –

(Flushing – March, 2010) – Kupferberg Center Performances closes its Just Jazz series with international recording artist **Freddy Cole** on Saturday, May 1st at 8 PM in LeFrak Concert Hall.

Born Lionel Frederick Cole, the youngest of Edward and Paulina Nancy Cole's five children, Freddy started playing piano at age five. His three elder brothers, Eddie, Ike and Nat (twelve years Freddy's senior) were all musicians.

In the Chicago home of his youth, visitors included Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Lionel Hampton. He also credits Billy Eckstine as a major influence. After a possible career with the NFL was shelved due to a hand injury, Freddy began playing and singing in Chicago clubs as a teenager. Although he was ready to hit the road at 18, his mother intervened and he continued his musical education at the Roosevelt Institute in Chicago.

Freddy moved to New York in 1951, where he studied at the Juilliard School of Music and found himself profoundly influenced by John Lewis, Oscar Peterson and Teddy Wilson. He got a Master's degree at the New England Conservatory of Music and then spent several months on the road as a member of an Earl Bostic band that also included Johnny Coles and Benny Golson.

It was back in New York that Freddy successfully laid the groundwork for a career that continues to flourish to this day. He developed a vast repertoire of songs in Manhattan bistros and concurrently began to supplement his live performances with television and radio commercial jingle work.

A resident of Atlanta since 1972, he currently leads a trio made up of himself, guitarist Randy Napoleon, drummer Curtis Boyd and bassist Elias Bailey that regularly tours the US, Europe, the Far East and South America.

A recording artist since 1952, Freddy Cole has emerged from the awesome shadow cast by his elder brother as his career continues to ascend with a style and musical sophistication all his own. His vocals - suave, elegant, formidable, and articulate - are among the most respected in jazz. Cole doesn't apologize for sounding like his brother Nat "King" Cole. In truth, his phrasing is far closer to that of Frank Sinatra or Billie Holiday than that of his brother and his timing swings a little more.

Media Note: For images, reviews, or to set up a phone interview, please contact Patty Price at 718-544-2996, or pprice@KupferbergCenter.org. To find out more about the arts at Queens College go to www.KupferbergCenterArts.org.

Tickets for FREDDY COLE are still available at \$30; \$28 seniors, students, QC alumni. Orders may be charged online at www.KupferbergCenterArts.org, by phone at 718-793-8080, or purchased at the Colden Auditorium Box Office.

Events at Kupferberg Center Performances are presented in Colden Auditorium and LeFrak Concert Hall. These venues are located on the Queens College campus, between exits 23 & 24 of the eastbound service road of the Long Island Expressway in Flushing. Free parking is available. Both Colden Auditorium and LeFrak Concert Hall are wheelchair accessible, have facilities for the hearing impaired, and are available for rental year round.

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