University of Florida Performing Arts

presents

**Sweet Baby James...**
*Tribute Concert to James Taylor*

Sunday, June 15, 2008, 4 p.m.
PROGRAM

Act One

Sweet Baby James
Lo and Behold
Sunny Skies
Steamroller
Country Road
Oh, Susannah
Fire and Rain
Blossom
Anywhere Like Heaven
Oh Baby, Don't You Loose Your Lip on Me
Suite for 20G

Act Two

Act Two’s line-up will be drawing from the following:

Handy Man
How Sweet It Is (Duet)
Mexico
Mockingbird (Duet)
Never Die Young
Secret O’ Life
Shed a Little Light (Duet)
Shower the People
Sweet Potato Pie
Your Smiling Face
You’ve Got a Friend

There will be no intermission between acts.

PROGRAM NOTES

Featuring the U.S. Top Three hit Fire and Rain, as much about the suicide of a fellow patient during Taylor’s time in a hospital for the mentally ill as the love song it is often taken for, Sweet Baby James served to confirm the singer/songwriter’s skills at weaving bittersweet country rock songs around love, friendship, loss and life. His second album was full of the lilting introspection that had marked his eponymous debut set, recorded a year earlier for The Beatles’ Apple label. The album featured beautifully delivered pared back love songs, notably Blossom, as well as “country aplenty” on the title track and the track Anywhere Like Heaven. There is even a jazzed up blues tune in Steamroller, where Taylor is a “napalm bomb/guaranteed to blow your mind.” With the Vietnam War still ongoing and the hopes of the sixties generation a fading memory, the album tapped into the post-hippie attitudes then prevailing.

Sweet Baby James spent much of the 12 months following its release in the Top 10 of the U.S. charts, and hit number seven in the UK. The album’s success put Taylor’s first album and the single Carolina on my Mind back on the charts.
Bob Stillman
The *Sweet Baby James* tribute concert stars the multitalented 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 had 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 nine. 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 Center).

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 in the show is Connie James who 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.

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 *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.