



Contact: Shannon Baker
GatesmanMarmionDrake
412-381-5400
sbaker@gmdadv.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CHARCOT-MARIE-TOOTH ASSOCIATION PRESENTS ‘GET JAZZED FOR A CURE’
AT VILLANOVA CONFERENCE CENTER, SATURDAY, MARCH 14**

-To Benefit CMTA’s Strategy to Accelerate Research (STAR™) to Treat and Cure CMT Disorder-

Chester, Pa, February 19, 2009 –The Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association has called upon “stars” from the world of jazz to help raise funds for its crucial Strategy to Accelerate Research (STAR™) initiative that is designed to lead to new treatments for Charcot-Marie-Tooth disorder (CMT) and a cure within ten years.

“Get Jazzed for a Cure” will feature the award-winning “Father John” D’Amico Trio with vocalist Ella Csiresu at the **Villanova Conference Center, Saturday, March 14, 2009, 6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.** The evening begins with a reception and open bar/hor d’oeuvres from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the elegant Montrose Mansion. Silent auction items may also be previewed at this time. Dinner service begins at 7:30 p.m. with entertainment to follow.

Donations are \$50 per person, with all proceeds benefitting the STAR™. To order tickets, visit www.cmtastar.org/jazzed or call 1-800-606-CMTA.

Honorary Chair for “Get Jazzed for the Cure” is Dr. Steven S. Scherer, MD, Ph.D, Professor of Neurology at the University of Pennsylvania and a member of the CMTA Board. Honored guest for the evening is Michael E. Shy, MD, Director of the Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) Clinic and Co-director of the Neuromuscular Program at Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich. Dr. Shy is also the Chair of the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association’s Medical Advisory Board.

About CMT Disorder:

CMT is the most commonly inherited peripheral neuropathy, estimated to affect one in every 2,500 people—approximately 2.6 million people worldwide. CMT is a progressive disorder that causes the nerve cells leading to the body’s extremities to slowly degenerate, resulting in the loss of normal use of the feet/legs and hands/arms. It may also lead to a loss of sensory nerve function and deformities. CMT strikes people of all ages, genders, races and ethnicities.

About the Father John D'Amico Trio

"Father John" D'Amico is considered one of the world's finest jazz composers, lyricists and pianists. The reigning "Lord of the Keyboard" recently returned from a triumphant week in Europe where he astounded and enthralled audiences of 300 to 400 a night. His long-time notable bassist, Kenny Davis, and the outstanding jazz chanteuse Ella Csircsu accompanied him. He was well received by the European press and broadcasting media. "Father John" has been chosen as Jazz Instrumentalist of the week on BET's Jazz Discoveries, as well as National airplay on BET's Jazz TV Station. "Father John" was a 1989 recipient of the John Coltrane Award for Outstanding Achievement in Jazz, and was a featured artist in the National Public Radio's "At the Bride" series 1989-1990. He is an active board member of the Trane Stop Resource Institute (John Coltrane). July 1994, "Father John" was distinguished with a biographical segment, "The Jazz Man."

About the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association (CMTA):

The CMTA, headquartered in Chester, Pennsylvania, is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1983. The CMTA goals include providing patient support, public education, promotion of research, and ultimately the improved treatment and cure of CMT. The organization is led by a Chief Executive Officer and is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors (BOD) and an international Medical Advisory Board (MAB) comprised of over fifty clinical and research professionals in specialties such as neurology, genetics, orthopedic surgery, physiatry, physical therapy and podiatry. The CMTA Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) is comprised of senior scientists with extensive research experience related to CMT. An External Advisory Board, made up of internationally recognized scientists, serves in an advisory capacity to the SAB. The CMTA has more than 15,000 patients and families, supportive friends, and medical professionals in its member database. For more information, visit www.charcot-marie-tooth.org or call 1-800-606-2682.

###