

Charlie Brown Christmas features Granelli

THE CHRONICLE HERALD

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JazzEast's ninth winter fundraiser on Dec. 8 at the Spatz Theatre in Halifax has a seasonal twist, with local jazz legend Jerry Granelli performing the original score of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

Drummer Granelli is the only surviving member of the Vince Guaraldi Trio, which wrote and performed the memorable soundtrack for the television classic.

"Over the years so many people have expressed their gratitude for this wonderful piece of work, and how it has become a part of the holiday traditions," Granelli said in a news release. "I'm delighted to share the music of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and to tell the story of its birth, and almost death, with a live audience."

When the half-hour holiday special first aired on the CBS network on Dec. 9, 1965, over 15 million households, nearly half of the possible audience in the United States, tuned in, the news release said.

"Although the program was criticized before going to air, it was an instant success. Prior to its debut, producers were worried it was too religious, and the soundtrack, which featured Guaraldi Trio's contemporary jazz, was too cutting edge for children's programming. Since the television special's debut, the music has gone on to become an iconic soundtrack for the holiday season."

Joining Granelli for *Tales of A Charlie Brown Christmas* are Simon Fisk of Calgary and Chris Gestrin of Vancouver. Halifax's Vivace Children's Choir, conducted by Jacqueline Crowell, will perform the children's parts of the special.

The show is at 2 and 8 p.m. at the Spatz Theatre in Citadel High School, 1855 Trollope St. During the matinee performance, one child (12 and under) may accompany an adult for free. Tickets are \$40 and available at www.jazzeast.com (<http://www.jazzeast.com>).

Proceeds support JazzEast's music education programs, such as Halifax JazzLabs, Creating Creative Listeners and the annual summer intensive music camp, the Creative Music Workshop.

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