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For Immediate Release:

BERNARDO MONK & *MassTango*
AT SOMERVILLE THEATRE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 AT 8:00 PM
TICKETS ON SALE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15
NEW CD: *Ponele la firma*

MassTango Productions will present **BERNARDO MONK & *MassTango*** on Saturday, January 27 at 8 p.m. at the Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville, Massachusetts. Tickets at \$30.00 [Golden Circle], \$25.00, \$20.00 and \$18.00 (including \$.50 Somerville Theatre restoration charge) go on sale on Wednesday, November 15 at 10 am at the Somerville Theatre Box Office, at all Ticketmaster outlets, on line at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling 617/508-931-2000. For more information, call: 617-625-4088. The Somerville Theatre is wheelchair accessible.

Saxophonist Bernardo Monk has just released his new CD entitled ***Ponele la firma*** which reveals his unique exploration and passion for the union of tango and jazz. On January 27, Monk & *MassTango* will perform a program of music from the new CD as well as his previous release. The band will feature **Hector Del Curto** on bandoneon, **Octavio Brunetti** on piano, **Nic Danielson** on violin and **Pedro Giraudo** on double bass. In addition, the program will be highlighted by Bernardo's beautiful and talented wife, Argentine tango dancer **Fernanda Cajide**.

Monk brings a unique and exotic style and sound to traditional tango. Combining the jazz elements of improvisation, warm vocals, and especially the use of the saxophone—a non-tango-traditional instrument—with a deep understanding of the many different tango streams, he creates a unique program that both honors and expands the tango form. Monk's music keeps intact the dancing quality that made Argentine tango famous around the world. The group's repertoire includes classic and original pieces featuring the three primary tango rhythms: tango, milonga and waltz.

Biographical information:

Buenos Aires-born Bernardo Monk began studying and playing music in 1990. He was fourteen years old. Everyone in his immediate family was a musician or about to become one, so he too followed the family path. Both of his parents played piano professionally; both of Bernardo's brothers later became musicians as well.

On a daily basis, Monk was hearing and absorbing the haunting music of 19th Century Argentina known as the tango. In sync with this, he fell in love with American jazz, as heard on many household records and the bands in which his two older brothers played. The music of Paquito D'Rivera, Charlie Parker and Branford Marsalis enthralled him. Soon the enthusiastic young artist Bernardo Monk was becoming a skilled performer on soprano and alto saxophones and he also immersed himself in everything

there was to know about tango. By 1993, Monk won First Prize as a soloist in the Expoadolescente National Arts Competition and by 2000, he had graduated from The Contemporary Music School in Buenos Aires. Then he won an International Scholarship to study at the world famous Berklee College of Music, in Boston where he expanded his instrumental palette to include baritone sax, clarinet and flute.

At Berklee he continued to stand out, winning two more competitions: the prestigious Charlie Parker Scholarship and the Berklee Woodwinds Department Achievement Award. Having studied intensively under the guidance of such top jazz players as Joe Lovano, Hal Crook, Jerry Bergonzi, Ed Tomassi, George Garzone, and Phil Wilson, Monk graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2003 with a Major in Jazz Performance.

During his time at Berklee, Monk also had the opportunity to perform, tour and/or record with such excellent groups as bassist Oscar Stagnaro's Peru Mestizo, The Tito Puente, Jr. Orchestra, Sol y Canto, Puerto Rican percussionist Equie Castrillo's Latin Big Band and The Ryles Jazz Orchestra as well as ensembles led by artists such as Panamanian vocalist Patricia Elena Vlieg Quintero, Columbian singer/songwriter Marta Gomez, and Argentinean pianist/composer Pablo Ablanedo.

In 2002, Bernardo Monk created **MassTango**, a unique and electrifying ensemble which presents the distinctive musical form called tango. The name of the group is a play on the abbreviation for Massachusetts and also the Spanish word for "more" . . . "mas." But Monk doesn't stop with the tango. He melds traditional tango musical figures and instruments [such as violin, piano, contrabajo, guitar and bandoneón] along with the not-so-traditional tango instruments and jazz sounds of the saxophone creating a wonderful and challenging, yet entertaining new artistic direction.

Along with this brilliant music come wonderful visual interludes featuring Bernardo's beautiful and talented wife, Argentine tango dancer **Fernanda Cajide** who partners with various Argentine dance masters.

MassTango has suddenly become all the rage in New England much like the tango itself did in Paris in the early 1900s. And with its sexy blend of the musical styles of tango and jazz, along with its most elegant dance, it's like a fine wine. This is music to savor . . . slowly and to bask in its extraordinary mixtures of exotic motifs. This is music to listen to, but while listening, the mind inevitably conjures up travels to faraway places such as Buenos Aires.

MassTango has performed in concert in Massachusetts at Cambridge's Zeitgeist Gallery, at Kresge Auditorium at MIT, at The Lowell Latin American Festival, at The Northampton Center for the Arts, at Berkshire Community College, in Sounds of Argentina in Chestnut Hill, at The Cambridge World Fair and at The Berklee International Folk Festival. **MassTango** has also been showcased in several notable Boston area nightclubs such as Regattabar and Ryles Jazz Club in Cambridge. Outside of Massachusetts, the group has performed at The Caramoor in Katonah, New York, Taller Latinoamericano in New York City, The Red Square in Albany, The Bearsville Theater in Woodstock, New York, Chases's in Belfast, Maine, and The Philadelphia Museum of Art.

In 2004, Bernardo and pianist Octavio Brunetti won First Prize in the Best Tango Duo category at the New York City International Tango Competition for professional instrumentalists. Also in 2004, Bernardo released his first album, **Estacion Buenos Aires**.

- ". . . his CD is a true example of genre master . . ." stated Buenos Aires' **Tango Magazine**.

- ". . . he is not only music, not only talent, he IS tango." said ***Tango and Cultura Popular***
- "Bernardo Monk is the tango musician that Piazzolla was dreaming of and never got to know: a composer with the energy, imagination and exuberance of youth combined with a thorough and sophisticated knowledge of the tradition and the music of today. Listen to this record and get a taste of the places Tango is going in the 21st century," said noted Argentinean composer Osvaldo Golijov.

Now, Bernardo Monk has just released his second CD: ***Ponele la firma.*** The new CD captures the full essence of his unique ability to unite the musical motifs of tango and jazz.