

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(sample clips also available here)



### Local Jazz Vocalist Releases His Debut Solo Album

(Carmel Valley – CA) Local jazz vocalist Dirk Etienne has released *High Standards*, his debut solo album, in time for Valentine's Day sales. With a silky and soulful voice, Dirk, accompanied by the Dirk Etienne Jazz Ensemble, sings familiar jazz standards in the style of Frank Sinatra or Harry Connick, Jr. Songs such as *Fly Me to the Moon*, *Summer Wind*, *The Way You Look Tonight*, and other jazz favorites were selected by Dirk because, "these songs tell a story and set a mood."

Dirk Etienne has a long history as a lead vocalist. He began performing in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and by 20 was singing in local clubs in Hollywood. At the age of 23, Dirk performed for 16,000 fans at the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City. He has opened on a top national tour, and worked with Grammy-winning producer Robert Margouleff and multi-platinum producers Kenny Kerner and Michael Lloyd, among others. After touring the U.S. in the late 70's and early 80's and singing for over 1 million people across the country, Dirk married and settled in Carmel Valley, California, where he has continued to work as a producer and recording engineer while pursuing other business interests.

In 2007, Dirk's passion for singing was reignited as he began conceptualizing *High Standards*. Dirk produced *High Standards* with Grammy nominated Dennis Murphy (Acoustic Alchemy, Maria Muldaur), who also plays the upright bass on the CD. Mark LeVang whose music credits include Natalie Cole, Jennifer Hudson, B.B. King and Elton John, accompanies Dirk on the piano. Bernie Dresel rounds out the ensemble on drums. Bernie has played with Frank Sinatra, James Taylor, Gwen Stefani, Christina Aguilera and Doc Severinsen, among many other major artists as well as film and television scores.

*High Standards* is available for sale at Do Re Mi Music & Video in Carmel or online at [www.dirketienne.com](http://www.dirketienne.com), [www.cdbaby.com/cd/dirketienne](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/dirketienne), and on iTunes.

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