

New blue eyes will lead tribute to the Chairman of the Board

By **IVONNE PEREZ**
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Larry Branchetti has blue eyes, a style and a voice almost identical to the one and only Chairman of the Board.

This month, Branchetti will take his Frank Sinatra voice to the stage at the Miami Shores Performing Arts Theater for "A Tribute to Frank Sinatra & Friends."

"I've been listening to Frank Sinatra ever since I was a child," said Branchetti, 50. "Sinatra's style stayed with me. His phrasing, the way he handled himself, moved his body. This man could light a cigarette in the middle of a song and never miss a beat."

Branchetti, who lives in Miami Shores, will perform with Pat Sapia and Alden McKay. Both do several impersonations, including Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis Jr., Joey Bishop, Dean Martin and Peter Lawford.

Lucky Sims, an impersonator, will be joining the gang as Liza Minnelli.

Audiences can close their eyes and hear an old legend come to life with Branchetti's voice, which has the same pause, the same snap and the same pizzazz as Sinatra's.

His sound is so real that Branchetti has been booked to play Las Vegas in September.

"I feel very honored to sound like him," Branchetti said. "It wasn't easy, it took a long time of listening and practicing. And, blue eyes."



SINATRA STYLE: Lawrence Branchetti of Miami Shores has practiced for years to sound like Frank Sinatra.

The show is designed to honor the musical legends — as well as raise money for the theater.

"Sinatra is in our minds," said Candy Rengstl, the show's producer. "So many of the greats have passed away. We figured it would be very nostalgic."

The show runs an hour and half with no intermission and include solos by Branchetti on

Sinatra's famous songs, including *The Lady is a Tramp*, *One for My Baby*, *One More for the Road* and *Angel Eyes*.

Sims will join in for *New York, New York* and also will sing *Ring Them Bells*.

"I think Sinatra's voice just made the orchestra sound good," Branchetti said.