



P.O. Box 3035  
VAIL, COLORADO  
81658-3035

970-479-6146 Tel  
970-477-0866 Fax

E-Mail:  
vjf@vailjazz.org

Web Site:  
[www.vailjazz.org](http://www.vailjazz.org)

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For More Information Contact: (970) 479-6146

### **Jazz Goes to School Returns to Eagle County Schools Four Times Starting on September 17th**

September 6, 2007 – Vail, Colorado – The Vail Jazz Foundation’s (VJF) Jazz Goes to School program returns for its tenth year in Eagle County Schools with the first session presented on September 17 – 20, 2007. This program offers an innovative and fully integrated approach to teaching music and social studies at the elementary school level. And best of all, the kids think it’s cool!

- The program is presented by the VJF to all fourth and fifth graders in every public school of Eagle County, plus the Eagle County Charter Academy, Vail Mountain School, Stone Creek Elementary, Vail Academy and St. Clare of Assisi. This year, Jazz Goes to School will reach over 1,000 students as the program continues to expand to serve the ever-increasing student population.

Jazz Goes to School is a fun and interactive program, formatted as a sequential series of four lessons. The curriculum fully integrates jazz music education and social studies subjects, such as world/American geography and history, and has been embraced by school administrators and instructors, parents and the students. The program creates an awareness at a younger level, thus creating future audiences and potentially, future jazz musicians. Last year, Ms. Sandberg at Red Sandstone Elementary School said “Jazz Goes to School is an extremely valuable part of my music curriculum.” While Ms. Vallejos at St. Clare of Assisi said, “Jazz Goes to School helped create excitement and enthusiasm for Jazz music in my classrooms. My students are now more willing to experience other forms of music as well!”

This year’s Jazz Goes to School will bring more musicians into the classroom than ever before. Session one will host three professional musicians who will present a lesson that includes age-appropriate discussions of the history of jazz and the fundamental elements comprising jazz. A major focus of Session One is the origins of Jazz, including African percussion and primitive instruments. Tony Gulizia, Music Director for Jazz Goes To School, will be joined by his brother, Joey, on drums and Michael Pujado on percussion.

This year’s program will culminate with a true jazz concert performed for the students at the Vilar Center for the Arts in April. The valley’s 1,000 fourth and fifth graders will be treated to a sextet performance by the Jazz Goes to School band, led by local musician, Tony Gulizia.

Parents of local fourth and fifth graders are encouraged to attend their student’s sessions at their children’s schools. Session Two takes place during the week of November 5<sup>th</sup>. Session 3 will bring five musicians (piano, drums, bass, trumpet, and saxophone) to each school during the week of February 4<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please contact the Vail Jazz Foundation at 970-479-6146.

Jazz Goes to School is sponsored by: Alpine Bank, Buckman/Blount Community Use Fund, City Market/The Kroger Foundation, Colorado Mountain Express (Official Transportation Provider), Eagle County RE-50J School District and PTOs, Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation, Integrity Mortgage of the Rockies, Vail Valley Foundation, Vilar Center for the Arts Beaver Creek, Walmart Foundation, the Colorado Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**For more information, contact:**

Robin Litt

The Vail Jazz Foundation

P.O. Box 3035, Vail, CO 81658

[vjf@vailjazz.org](mailto:vjf@vailjazz.org)

[www.vailjazz.org](http://www.vailjazz.org)

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