



NEWS RELEASE

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Jazz Goes to School Returns to Eagle County

4TH and 5TH Graders Learn About Jazz & American History

November 4, 2008 – Vail, Colorado – Jazz Goes to School, the Vail Jazz Foundation’s free jazz education program for 4th and 5th graders, returns to Eagle County this week, featuring a quintet of professional musician/educators who travel to local schools to present an interactive lesson on jazz and American History.

Jazz Goes to School is a unique program for local 4th and 5th grade students that includes three in-school sessions and finishes with a concert at the Vilar Performing Arts Center. The program is in its eleventh year of providing free jazz education in Eagle County Schools, and it is one example of how the Vail Jazz Foundation pursues its mission to perpetuate the jazz art form, with a focus on young musicians and young audiences.

This second session of the four part program examines the foundation of jazz music; the rhythm section. “We want to introduce the kids to the heart of jazz; the cool combination of drums, piano and bass forms the core of all jazz music”, said program director Tony Gulizia. The children have the opportunity to not only hear the quintet play, but also to participate in playing special melodic and percussion instruments, and to try their hand at creating jazz music. The final concert includes a medley of blues compositions created by the fifth graders for the concert.

“This is such a unique and special program”, said VJF’s executive director, Mia Vlaar. “We provide the music teachers with a comprehensive curriculum, including pre and post lesson plans, follow up activities, and of course the sessions in the classroom with our JGTS musician. Most kids would never be exposed to jazz, much less understand its development and relevance to American history without this program”, Vlaar continued.

Local jazz musician and professional jazz educator, Tony Gulizia (keyboard and vocals), directs the Jazz Goes to School program for the Vail Jazz Foundation. Gulizia is joined by his brother Joey, who is also a professional jazz musician and educator, on drums. Other musician/educators performing this week include Andy Hall (bass), Roger Neumann (saxophone), and Michael Gurciullo (trumpet).

About Jazz Goes To School

Jazz Goes to School is presented by the Vail Jazz Foundation (VJF) to Eagle County fourth and fifth graders, including all public schools plus the Eagle County Charter Academy, Vail Mountain School, The Vail Academy, Stone Creek Elementary School and St. Clare of Assisi. Jazz Goes to School reaches over 1,000 students each year, and has exposed over 10,000 school students to a course about this uniquely American art form.

Jazz Goes to School offers a unique interactive learning experience that enhances the basic school curriculum and is provided free of charge, thanks to each school's PTO and program sponsors, including Alpine Bank, Vilar Center Community Performance Fund, City Market/The Kroger Foundation, Colorado Mountain Express (Official Transportation Provider), Eagle County RE-50J School District and PTOs, Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation, United Way of Eagle River Valley, Vail Valley Foundation, Vilar Performing Arts Center, Walmart Foundation, and other corporate sponsors.

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