



## *NEWS RELEASE*

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### **Jazz Goes to School Concludes with Vilar Center Concert**

April 10, 2008 – Vail, Colorado – Jazz Goes to School, a jazz education program for Eagle County 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, will conclude its tenth year with two jazz performances at the Vilar Performing Arts Center in Beaver Creek on Monday, April 21, 2008.

The fourth and final session, entitled “Showcasing A Century of American Jazz”, features the performance of compositions by jazz greats ‘Duke’ Ellington, ‘Dizzie’ Gillespie, Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock and more, all to demonstrate concepts taught in the first three classroom sessions. A highlight of the annual concert is a medley of blues tunes written by the fifth grade students, and performed by the Jazz Goes to School Sextet, led by Vail Jazz Ambassador Tony Gulizia.

Members of the community are invited to attend; seats are available but limited, and can be reserved by calling the Vail Jazz Foundation at 970-479-6146. “Our program extends well beyond the kids”, said executive director Mia Vlaar, “By teaching our kids about jazz, we introduce them to the opportunity to enjoy and perhaps even pursue a career as a jazz musician. The Sextet also performs in Vail prior to the concert, giving everyone a chance to appreciate the music. Our efforts are designed to fulfill our mission to perpetuate the jazz art form, especially among young people”.

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 include Andy Hall (bass), Roger Neumann (saxophone), Kirk Garrison (trumpet) and Michael Pujado (congas and percussion).

In order to extend this opportunity to the entire community, the Jazz Goes to School Sextet will do two special free performances in Vail prior to their final concert. On Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> you can catch them at the Vail Chophouse in Lionshead from 3-6pm, and on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> they’ll perform at the Vail Cascade Fireside Lounge from 7-10pm.

## 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 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, The Evjue Foundation, Integrity Mortgage of the Rockies, Vail Valley Foundation, Vilar Performing Arts Center, Walmart Foundation, the Colorado Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Accolades for the program abound among teachers, administrators and parents: Dave Laub, music teacher at Vail Mountain School, said, "My students come to me at the end of fourth grade already knowing what instrument they want to play- and it's not based on the way the instrument looks. The JGTS musicians really educate the students about the role of each instrument while connecting with them with great personalities. The students are excited to see the guys for each session - and ecstatic when they run into Tony playing around town days, weeks and years later".

### **For more information or to reserve your seat please contact:**

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