



For Immediate Release

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## **VAIL JAZZ FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES LINEUP FOR SIZZLING SUMMER OF JAZZ**

Vail, CO June 4, 2008 – True to its mission to perpetuate jazz music in Vail, Colorado, The Vail Jazz Foundation has announced a series of concerts to tantalize every music fan, from the basic live band enthusiast to the discriminating jazz fan. With jazz styles ranging from New Orleans to Latin, Swing to Straight-Ahead, and formats including open air free concerts to cabaret-style jazz, the lineup promises plenty of ways to enjoy live jazz in Vail all summer long.

### **SEASON OPENER, JUNE 25**

***Columbus Jazz Orchestra, Byron Stripling, Artistic Director***, Ford Amphitheater, Vail. Renowned trumpet virtuoso Bryon Stripling returns to the Gerald Ford Amphitheater as bandleader of the Columbus Jazz Orchestra to present "The Sounds of New Orleans". This concert is co-presented with Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival.

### **JAZZ @ THE MARKET, SUNDAYS, JUNE 29 – AUGUST 24**

Jazz @ the Market brings live jazz music to the Vail Farmers' Market at Meadow Drive in Vail Village on select Sundays throughout the summer. Regional favorites will perform from 12:00 to 3:30pm, and include Tony Gulizia Trio, Kathy Morrow Trio, Max Wagner Quartet, Rick Weingarten Trio, Summit Jazz Consort and Mile High Chapter Choir.

### **ICEF HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ AND MARCHING BAND, JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> WEEK**

Continuing an eight year Fourth of July tradition, Vail will once again welcome the ICEF High School Jazz and Marching band to enhance the annual patriotic celebrations. This award-winning band will travel non-stop for 20 hours by bus from South Central Los Angeles to march in Vail's Fourth of July parade, and will perform at various locations throughout the Vail Valley as part of the holiday festivities. Whether it is stopping for an "all you can eat" meal in Las Vegas on the way to and from Vail, sleeping on the floor of the gym at the Vail Mountain School, or riding the gondola to the top of Vail Mountain, it is all part of the fun for these very talented inner-city kids who are rewarded for their hard work throughout the school year with a summer trip to Vail. The band is comprised of 100 talented musicians and is conducted by Fernando Pullum. Pullum founded the school's jazz program where he teaches music. He extends the program with a community service component that empowers students to reach out to teach other disadvantaged kids about how music can enrich their lives.

**JAZZ @ VAIL SQUARE, THURSDAYS, JULY 31 – AUGUST 28, 2008**

Jazz @ Vail Square is a new, free, open air concert series that will fill the heart of the new Lionshead with the refreshing sounds of jazz Thursday evenings from 6 – 8pm, from July 31 through the end of August. The intimate tented venue brings together cool jazz and sultry nights at Vail Square, just outside the Arrabelle Hotel.

***Curtis Stigers***, July 31 -- Curtis is a singer/saxophonist/songwriter who expands the jazz repertory by creating new jazz standards. With a distinctive voice and storytelling style, Curtis' unique style allows the poetry of the lyrics to come through. Curtis will be traveling to Vail after concluding a tour with Diana Krall.

***Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue***, August 7 – Also known as Troy Andrews, this trombone and trumpet player represents the next generation of New Orleans jazz musicians. Trombone Shorty combines the exuberance and showmanship of Louis Armstrong with a unique blend of funk, pop, hip-hop and jazz that never fails to bring audiences to their feet.

***The Jeff Hamilton Trio***, August 14 - Jeff Hamilton is one of hottest drummers on the jazz scene today, whether playing with his trio, the Clayton/Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, or the Grammy-winning Diana Krall band. Jeff has recorded with artists Natalie Cole, Milt Jackson, Barbara Streisand, Mel Tomé, John Pizzarelli, George Shearing, Dr. John and many others.

***Jesus "Chuchito" Valdes, Jr.***, August 21 -- Chuchito, who was born in Havana, is an accomplished pianist and the third generation of one of the most distinguished musical families in Cuba. An extremely flamboyant and exuberant performer, Chuchito's unique interpretation of Afro-Cuban spiced Latin Jazz is tremendously popular at festivals, clubs and concerts all over the world.

***The Clayton Brothers Quintet and VJF All-Stars***, August 28 -- Led by Grammy winner and bassist extraordinaire John Clayton, the renowned Clayton Brothers Quintet includes John, his brother Jeff Clayton, saxophonist and co-leader of the Clayton Hamilton Jazz Orchestra; pianist and jazz educator Bill Cunliffe; Terrell Stafford, one of the most sought after trumpet players today; and Lewis Nash, the most highly recorded jazz drummer ever. The VJF All-Stars are students of the Vail Jazz Workshop who have been selected from hundreds of accomplished high school musicians for a 10-day residency in Vail. The students work with musician/educators to hone their skills, and then perform with the Quintet as the Vail Jazz All-Stars.

**A TRIBUTE TO DUKE ELLINGTON AND BILLY STRAYHORN WITH BILL CUNLIFFE, AUGUST 22, 2008**

Award winning jazz pianist and composer will take us through a salute to Billy Strayhorn and Duke Ellington, through a multi media format including live music, video and discussion at the Poage home in Cordillera. This program is presented in conjunction with the Vail Symposium, and tickets are available at [www.vailsymposium.org](http://www.vailsymposium.org).

## 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LABOR DAY WEEKEND PARTY, AUGUST 29 – SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

The summer of jazz in Vail culminates with the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Labor Day Weekend Jazz Party – a four day celebration of jazz that attracts some of the greatest jazz talent of this century to its home at the Vail Cascade Resort. The cabaret style format creates a unique and intimate setting in which to enjoy over 24 hours of jazz, with virtually every performer playing each day in a variety of fascinating combinations with other musicians. Schedule of performances is available online at [www.vailjazz.org](http://www.vailjazz.org).

### LABOR DAY WEEKEND PARTY GROUPS

The Labor Day Weekend party will feature the legendary **Clayton Brothers Quintet**, which is also playing the final Jazz @ Vail Square concert on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Hendrik Meurkens and the New York Samba Jazz Quintet.** German born Meurkens, a harmonica and vibraphone virtuoso, leads this ensemble. Meurkens is joined by Jed Levy on tenor flute and three Brazilian artists: Helio Alvez on piano, bassist Gustavo Amarante, and drummer/percussionist Adriano Santos. The Quintet, which is known for playing styles ranging from straight ahead to Latin/Brazilian jazz, is making a first trip to Vail from their home city of New York,

Guitarist **Jimmy Bruno**, who made his mark early on with the Buddy Rich Big Band and Frank Sinatra, founded a guitar institute where he shares his tremendous guitar playing talent with would-be guitar players worldwide. *AllAboutJazz.com* says Bruno is "one of the most technically proficient yet stylistically-nuanced hard bop guitarists... a guitarist's guitarist — if not a trendsetter, certainly a standard bearer." Bruno is joined by his trio, including Craig Thomas on bass and Webb Thomas on drums.

Vocalist and Broadway star **Ann Hampton Callaway** is a singer, pianist, composer, lyricist, arranger, actress, and educator, and is best known for starring in the hit Broadway musical "SWING!" Callaway is joined by accomplished pianist Ted Rosenthal, bassist, lyricist and singer Jay Leonhart, and New York jazz scene veteran drummer Victor Lewis.

**Bill Cunliffe's Multi-Media Salute to Horace Silver** combines rare and historic video footage with an oral history and the performance of the unforgettable jazz classics of this great jazz artist.

**Mile High Chapter Choir**, always a crowd favorite, is an all-star gospel/jazz choir hailing from Denver, Colorado.

### LABOR DAY WEEKEND PARTY SOLOISTS

Lyricist and tenor saxophone player **Joel Frahm** is a rising jazz star, most recently recognized for his extraordinary talent by *DownBeat* magazine.

Trombonist **Wycliffe Gordon** is one of the most sought after trombone players in jazz today. Gordon played in Wynton Marsalis' Lincoln Center Jazz Band and is known for his energetic and memorable performances.

Pianist **Benny Green** is a major talent and one of the finest young piano players in jazz today. He is sought after worldwide, with a performance schedule that regularly takes him to Europe, Japan, and beyond.

**Tony Monaco**, a popular 2007 Festival soloist, returns to the festival in 2008. Tony is the hottest B-3 player on the scene and is universally recognized as an outstanding entertainer.

**Don "Papadon" Washington** is a one of a kind talent who sings the blues and plays the piano – with boogie woogie as a specialty.

**Jamire Williams** is a Vail Jazz Workshop alumnus who is one of the most in-demand young drummers in New York today.

**Tickets** for the Labor Day Weekend Jazz Party are \$45 for afternoon shows, \$55 for evening shows and \$10 for student tickets (with valid ID). Discounted tickets are available online if purchased before August 1. A Patron Pass provides access to all events and is available for \$350. Tickets are available online or by calling 800-VAIJAM (824-5526) prior to the Festival, and some tickets will be available at the door.

**Lodging** is available at Vail Cascade Resort and Spa with a special Festival rate of just \$129/night, call 800-420-2424 or visit [www.vailcascade.com](http://www.vailcascade.com) and mention 'Vail Jazz' for this special room rate.

**Transportation** is available through Colorado Mountain Express (CME), Official Transportation Provider. Just visit [www.vailjazz.org](http://www.vailjazz.org) and click on the CME logo to book online and receive a 10% discount.

## **EVENT SPONSORS**

None of these exceptional jazz programs would be possible without the generous support of our sponsors, which include Alpine Bank, Alpine Party Rentals, BBE Sound, Colorado Council on the Arts, Colorado Mountain Express – official transportation provider, Ella Fitzgerald Foundation, Hertz, Jazz 89 FM KUVO, KVBA TV8 and TV 17, National Endowment for the Arts, Plum TV, PRIMA, Town of Vail, Vail Daily and Yamaha.

## **ABOUT THE VAIL JAZZ FOUNDATION**

The Vail Jazz Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, celebrating 14 years of providing outstanding jazz music and jazz education programs in the Vail Valley of Colorado. For more information, visit [www.vailjazz.org](http://www.vailjazz.org)

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