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Contact: Mia Vlaar, [vjf@vailjazz.org](mailto:vjf@vailjazz.org), (970) 479-6146

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

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

E-Mail:  
[vjf@vailjazz.org](mailto:vjf@vailjazz.org)

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

MIA VLAAR  
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## LIBRARY EXHIBIT RECOGNIZES FIFTEEN YEARS OF THE VAIL JAZZ FESTIVAL

### Jazz festival poster exhibit celebrates Vail Library's 25th anniversary

November 18, 2008 – Vail, Colorado – In honor of the Vail Library's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the Vail Jazz Foundation is displaying a collection of annual Vail Jazz Festival posters, dating back to the first Vail Jazz Party in 1995, in the library's community room. The exhibit is available for public viewing now through November 30 during library operating hours: Monday - Thursday 10am - 8pm, and Friday - Sunday 11am - 6pm.

The Vail Jazz Festival was born when Vail homeowner and life-long jazz fan Howard Stone decided to bring a jazz party to Vail. In the early nineties, Stone had traveled around Colorado to attend a number of Jazz Parties, which bring musicians and fans of jazz together to enjoy back to back live jazz performances. Stone's experiences inspired him to carry on a 20 year Colorado tradition by creating a Jazz Party in Vail over Labor Day Weekend. The first event was attended by 500 guests and received rave reviews.

The Vail Jazz Party has since grown into a summer long festival that includes a variety of indoor and outdoor events in and around Vail. The 2008 Festival included Byron Stripling and the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, co-presented with Bravo! at the Ford Amphitheater, weekly live concerts on Thursdays in Lionshead, known as Jazz at Vail Square, weekly live concerts on Sundays at the Vail Farmers' Market, and of course the Labor Day Jazz Party at the Vail Cascade, which featured 24 hours of music over four days with over 30 musicians, each of whom played virtually every day.

The resounding success of the initial Vail Jazz Party lead Stone to create the Vail Jazz Foundation. "I envisioned a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and sustaining jazz music, with specific emphasis on supporting young musicians and young audiences," said Stone. "You can't support the music without supporting the artists that are carrying on the jazz tradition, which is why we educate young people about jazz, and instruct budding jazz musicians." Stone continued.

In 2009 the Foundation will enter its 15<sup>th</sup> season of jazz performances and education, anchored by the annual Vail Jazz Festival.

The exhibit at the Vail Library includes annual festival posters from the first Vail Jazz Party through the 2008 Vail Jazz Festival. Designs were either created with jazz icons such as the saxophone or piano, or in some cases were commissioned for the Festival. Many of the posters on display are autographed by the musicians in attendance that year.

Across the hall, visitors to the library can enjoy the Louis Armstrong exhibit created by Gary Thornton for the Vail Jazz Foundation. In addition to information about Louis Armstrong and books about jazz, the exhibit also includes materials on the Vail Jazz Festival and jazz education programs, including Jazz Goes to School and the Vail Jazz Workshop.

#### About the Vail Jazz Foundation

The Vail Jazz Foundation's mission is to perpetuate jazz music through live performances that showcase the artistry and talent of great jazz musicians, and through jazz education, with a focus on young musicians and young audiences. By taking jazz into the schools, the VJF hopes to create an awareness at a younger level, thus creating future audiences and potentially, future jazz musicians.

#### **For more information, contact:**

Mia Vlaar

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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