



For Immediate Release

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**FREE JAZZ CONCERT FEATURES NIKI HARIS AUGUST 6 IN VAIL SQUARE**  
*Tented venue ensures concert rain or shine from 6-8pm in Lionshead*

Vail, CO, August 5, 2009 – The popular Jazz at Vail Square concert series returns to Lionshead on August 6 with singer songwriter Niki Haris and her trio. August 6 is the first of five free jazz concerts at Vail Square, presented Thursdays in August and September 3 by the Vail Jazz Foundation and the Arrabelle Hotel.

Singer, songwriter, dancer and choreographer Niki Haris, who is the daughter of Grammy-nominated jazz pianist Gene Harris, has enjoyed a fabulous solo career since her years as a backup singer for Madonna. Haris is joined by Karen Hammack, a highly respected Los Angeles based pianist, Kenny Walker on bass, and Paul Romaine on drums. “Niki brings tremendous energy to the stage,” said Howard Stone, chairman and artistic director of the Vail Jazz Foundation. “Niki and Karen bring the elements of classic American roots- soul and pop for a cool jazz sound that can’t be duplicated,” continued Stone.

Haris performed in January at the Obama inauguration, and has recorded and/or performed with Ray Charles, Santana, Luther Vandross, the Righteous Brothers, Anita Baker, Mick Jagger, Whitney Houston, Madonna, and many others. She also performed with Hammack at the 2007 Vail Jazz Party.

“This is a great opportunity to get out and enjoy live jazz on a summer’s eve in the beauty of Vail Square in Lionshead,” said Mia Vlaar, the Vail Jazz Foundation’s executive director. “The venue is perfect for jazz – and folks tell us Jazz at Vail Square is the sleeper event in the Vail summer cultural calendar.” The outdoor venue is located in the inner courtyard just outside the Arrabelle hotel in Lionshead, and with tented seating for 250 people; the concerts are presented rain or shine.

The concert series continues next Thursday, August 13, with the Hot Tomatoes Swing Band, featuring professional swing dancers Tiffany Wine and Kenny Nelson, who will perform and offer swing dance instruction. August 20 is Magos Herrera’s night at Vail Square – Magos is a magical Latin jazz vocalist who will appear with her outstanding trio. On August 27, Doug Wamble takes the stage with his eclectic mix of jazz, blues and gospel. The free series wraps up on September 3 with the legendary Clayton Brothers Quintet. Joining the Claytons will be the Vail Jazz All-Stars, a dozen of the most talented high

school aged jazz musicians in North America, who will be completing a ten day intensive workshop in Vail with the Vail Jazz Foundation. Thursday will be their opportunity to shine with one of the most accomplished jazz quintets of today. The final Jazz at Vail Square concert also kicks off the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Labor Day weekend party, hosted at the Vail Marriott Mountain Resort and in Vail Square September 3 – 7, and featuring Ann Hampton Callaway, Jeff Hamilton Trio, Brian Lynch Quintet, Dave Corbus Joel Frahm, Wycliffe Gordon, Benny Green, and many other great jazz musicians. Tickets are on sale now at [www.vailjazz.org](http://www.vailjazz.org).

Jazz @ Vail Square: At a Glance

<b>Thursday, August 13</b>	<b>Hot Tomatoes Swing Band and Swing Dancers</b>
<b>Thursday, August 20</b>	<b>Magos Herrera</b>
<b>Thursday, August 27</b>	<b>Doug Wamble</b>
<b>Thursday, September 3</b>	<b>Clayton Brothers Quintet &amp; VJF All-Stars</b>

### **EVENT SPONSORS**

Jazz @ Vail Square is brought to you with the generous support of The Arrabelle Hotel, the Town of Vail, Alpine Bank, The Jazz Cruise and the Vail Daily. Other sponsors include Alpin Aire, Alpine Party Rentals, BBE Sound, Colorado Mountain Express – official transportation provider, Ella Fitzgerald Foundation, Hertz, Jazz 89 FM KUVU, KVBA TV8 and TV 17, KZYR, Lift Creative Group, Notably Fine Audio, Plum TV, Rocky Mountain Reprographics, United Way Eagle River Valley, Vail Marriott Mountain Resort & Spa, Vail Resorts and Yamaha.

### **ABOUT THE VAIL JAZZ FOUNDATION**

The Vail Jazz Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, celebrating 15 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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