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15th ANNUAL VAIL JAZZ FESTIVAL SERVES UP LATIN, SWING & CLASSIC JAZZ Talented artists, stunning venues promise jazz paradise in cool Rocky Mountains

July 15, 2009 – Vail, Colorado – The Vail Jazz Festival returns with over 29 live jazz concerts in and around Vail this summer. The Festival culminates with the annual Vail Jazz Party, at 24 hour celebration of jazz, which this Labor Day weekend returns to its former home at the Vail Marriott Mountain Resort in Lionshead.

“If you like traditional jazz, swing, Latin jazz, or the American Songbook, you won’t be disappointed this summer,” said Howard Stone, chairman and artistic director for the Vail Jazz Foundation. “We’ve mixed it up with a variety of jazz styles, and our venues bring together great jazz talent with spectacular settings.” continued Stone.

JAZZ AT THE MARKET, JUNE 28 – AUGUST 30

The festival begins on June 28 with the first of ten Jazz at the Vail Farmers’ Market concerts, Sundays at the Vail Jazz Festival stage from noon to 3:30pm, on Meadow Drive near Annie’s. Talent includes local favorites like Tony Gulizia Trio, Justin Allison Trio, Summit Jazz Consort, the Mile High Chapter Choir, and Kathy Morrow.

ICEF & WASHINGTON PREP JAZZ & MARCHING BAND, JULY 3 & 4

The Inner City Educational Foundation (ICEF) and Washington Prep Jazz & Marching Band once again returns to Vail to join in the July 4th celebrations. The Band is comprised of students from South Central Los Angeles charter schools who have earned their way to Vail. With their unique blend of traditional marching, jazz and hip hop, this 100 member band will perform at Mountain Plaza on July 3, and on July 4th will participate in the parade and perform in Vail Square at 1pm.

“The Jazz & Marching Band helps us launch the festival with a big splash” said Mia Vlaar, executive director of the Vail Jazz Foundation. “As the summer continues, we add more venues and greater variety of performances.”

CURTIS STIGERS BENEFIT, JULY 20

Multi platinum selling vocalist Curtis Stigers will perform a benefit concert for the Vail Jazz Foundation on July 20 at the Arrabelle. Stigers is a singer, saxophonist, and songwriter whose musical selection is a distinctive blend of rock, soul and jazz. His crooning, emotional interpretations allow the poetry of the lyrics to come through. Tickets are available for \$150 by calling 970.479.6146.

JAZZ AT VAIL SQUARE IN LIONSHEAD, AUGUST 6 – SEPTEMBER 3

Jazz at Vail Square returns to Lionshead on August 6 with the first of five free shows in an intimate tented venue outside the Arrabelle Hotel.

Thursday, August 6: Niki Haris

Singer, songwriter and dancer Niki Haris brings her talented quartet to the Vail Square stage on August 6. Niki, 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 performed in January at the Obama inauguration, and has recorded with Ray Charles, Santana, Luther Vandross, the Righteous Brothers, Anita Baker, Mick Jagger, Whitney Houston and Madonna.

Thursday, August 13: Hot Tomatoes Swing Band and Swing Dancing

One of the best swing bands west of the Mississippi, the Hot Tomatoes delights fans with authentic re-creations of music by the greats of the swing era, including Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller and Harry James. Completing the big band experience are award-winning swing dancers Tiffany Wine and Kenny Nelson, whose high energy, toe tapping swing performance will not be complete until they invite the 'not so shy' to join them on the dance floor for live dance instruction!

Thursday, August 20: Magos Herrera Quartet

A dazzling, accomplished singer-songwriter known for her beguiling rhythmic scatting inflected with soulful Latin-Andalusian phrasings, Magos Herrera is a jazz singer extraordinaire. Magos' signature sound elegantly blends her classic jazz styling with Mexican, Cuban and Brazilian melodies. Fluent in Spanish, Portuguese and English, Magos is a favorite in Latin America, and her repertoire is filled with the yearning romance, intimacy and enchantment of Mexican and Cuban songs and boleros, and sultry, languid samba-bossa nova beats.

Thursday, August 27: Doug Wamble

Acoustic guitarist, singer and composer Doug Wamble is known for his unique blend of jazz, gospel and blues. Wamble, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, grew up on a steady diet of blues, gospel, country and R&B, bluegrass, rock and jazz – and his unique musical style reflects this diversity. Wamble is joined by pianist Roy Dunlap, bassist Jeff Hanley and drummer Peter Miles. The quartet has performed at venues including London Jazz Festival, Berlin Jazz Festival, Tanglewood and Monterey Jazz Festival.

Thursday, September 3: Clayton Brothers Quintet and VJF All-Stars

Lead by Grammy winner and bassist John Clayton, this highly acclaimed jazz group includes saxophonist Jeff Clayton, pianist Bill Cunliffe, Terell Stafford on trumpet, and Lewis Nash on drums. The Quintet also serves as educators for the Vail Jazz Workshop, an intensive ten day clinic for 12 of the finest high school-aged jazz musicians in the country. Their unique learning experience culminates with their performance with the Clayton Brothers Quintet in Vail Square on September 3.

VAIL JAZZ PARTY: LABOR DAY WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 3 – 7

The Vail Jazz Party will welcome back some 2008 crowd pleasers: tenor saxophonist Joel Frahm and trombonist Wycliffe Gordon, who played with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra at

the Ford Amphitheater in 2008. Also back by popular demand: Benny Green, a one-of-a-kind pianist, alto saxophonist Antonio Hart, and B-3 organist Tony Monaco. Colorado's own Dave Corbus will be playing blues guitar, while groups Ann Hampton Callaway and her trio and the Jeff Hamilton Trio return to once again wow concert goers with their range and finesse. The Clayton Brothers Quintet will be a major force at the Jazz Party, as will the Brian Lynch Quintet. Pianist Bill Cunliffe will present a multi media salute to trumpet legend Freddie Hubbard.

The Vail Jazz Party offers something for everyone – including two special sessions not to be missed: the Mile High Chapter Choir will share their soulful gospel sound outside in the Vail Square tent in Lionshead on Sunday, September 6, where they will be followed by an afternoon session of jammin' jazz featuring a variety of Jazz Party musicians.

Tickets, Lodging and More Information

ICEF Jazz & Marching Band July 4, Jazz at the Market, Jazz at Vail Square

For all free series, seats are available on a first come, first served basis.

Vail Jazz Party

Tickets to the Vail Jazz Party are \$45/afternoon session, \$55/evening session, or \$350 for a VIP event pass. Each session includes up to six different sets of musicians! Tickets and passes are available for purchase through the Vail Jazz Foundation office at 970.479.6146, or 888-VAILJAM (824-5526). Lodging is offered at host hotel Vail Marriott Mountain Resort with rooms starting at \$129/night: Call 800.648.0720 and mention 'Vail Jazz' to make your reservation. Early booking discounts are available for tickets and lodging, and both will be available for online purchase in July.

About the Vail Jazz Foundation

The VJF is a 501 c 3 non-profit organization whose mission is to perpetuate jazz 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 creates an awareness of this great art form to nurture audiences of the future and future jazz musicians.

Brought to you by:

Sponsors of the Vail Jazz Foundation include the Town of Vail, Alpine Bank, Alpine Party Rentals, The Arrabelle, BBE Sound, Colorado Mountain Express, Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation, Hertz, United Way Eagle River Valley, Vail Daily, Vail Resorts, Yamaha, and many others.

For more information, contact:

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