



NEWS RELEASE

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Eagle County 4th and 5th Graders Swing with Jazz Goes to School

Vail Jazz Foundation Brings Music Education to Local Youth

September 27, 2010 – Vail, Colorado – Jazz Goes to School, the Vail Jazz Foundation’s jazz education program for Eagle county 4th and 5th graders, returns to schools this week. The program features a trio of professional musician/educators who travel to 14 local schools to share their love and knowledge of jazz and American History, and inspire young people to embrace jazz: America’s own art form.

This first session of the four part program traces the evolution of the music from its origins in Africa and the American south through to today’s jazz. Local jazz musician and program director Tony Gulizia explains, “We look at the geographical movement of Senegalese, Yoruba-Dahomean and Ashantis slaves to the United States. We examine their customs and culture with a particular emphasis on the musical traditions they brought to America.”

The history of great jazz giants, such as Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, W.C. Handy, Scott Joplin, King Oliver, Kid Ory, and how the migration of the black population brings the blues to New Orleans is also featured in this lesson.

The history of many musical instruments is discussed, and students are encouraged to try their hand at playing special percussion instruments from West Africa. Students learn about African rhythms which found their way to New Orleans, where they began to blend with European church music.

Tony Gulizia (keyboard and vocals), directs the Jazz Goes to School program for the Vail Jazz Foundation. For this first session, Gulizia is joined by his brother Joey, who is also a professional jazz musician and educator, on drums and Michael Pujado, on percussion.

The second session will take place in January and will explore the origins and significance of the rhythm section, which is comprised of bass, keyboard/piano and drums, and provides the foundation for all jazz music.

About Jazz Goes To School

Jazz Goes to School, which is in its twelfth year, supports and promotes the jazz art form with a focus on educating young musicians and young audiences – fulfilling the mission of the Vail Jazz Foundation.

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 a course about 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 Sponsors of the Vail Jazz Foundation include Alpine Bank, Alpine Party Rentals, The Arrabelle, Baker's Piano Center, BBE Sound, Colorado Council on the Arts, Colorado Mountain Express – Official Transportation Provider , Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation, EverVail, Fly Vail, Hertz, Jack FM, KZYR – The Zephyr 97.7 FM, KUVO 89.3 & KVJZ 88.5 Jazz Public Radio, KVBA-TV8, , United Way Eagle River Valley, Vail Daily, Vail Resorts Echo, Vail Valley Foundation, and many other businesses and private donors.

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