



For Immediate Release

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MARCIA BALL OPENS FREE JAZZ SERIES AUGUST 5 IN VAIL SQUARE

Tented venue ensures live jazz -- rain or shine -- from 6-8pm in Lionshead

Vail, CO, August 4, 2010 – Pianist, vocalist, and songwriter Marcia Ball will open the Jazz at Vail Square concert series at 6pm on August 5 with her unique blend of groove-laden New Orleans R&B and driving Gulf Coast blues. This is the first of five free jazz concerts at Vail Square, presented Thursday evenings in August and on September 2 by the Vail Jazz Foundation and Ritz Carlton Residences.

“We are thrilled to open the series with the inimitable Marcia Ball,” said Howard Stone, artistic director and chairman of the Vail Jazz Foundation, who presents the series. “Not only is she a tremendously talented musician, but she’s a consummate entertainer.”

Four time Grammy nominee Marcia Ball is known for her infectious, intelligent and deeply emotional brand of southern boogie, rollicking, roadhouse blues and heartfelt ballads. Over the course of her three-decade career, Ball has earned a huge and intensely loyal following. Her music is mixed with equal parts of simmering soul fervor and jumping blues. Between her deeply emotive vocals and her incisive, often poignant songwriting, Ball is in a class by herself.

“This is a great opportunity to get out and enjoy extraordinary music on a summer’s eve in the beauty of Vail,” said Mia Vlaar, the Vail Jazz Foundation’s executive director. “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. Concert goers can enjoy the music while dining, as the music is carried by speakers to restaurants beyond Vail Square. And Lionshead doesn’t stop rocking after the show is done; restaurants and shops will be open for business.

“Vail Square is a perfect venue for jazz,” said Brian Austin, general manager of the Arrabelle Hotel in Lionshead. “We are thrilled to welcome back this popular free concert series,” continued Austin.

The concert series continues next Thursday, August 12 with a return visit by the Hot Tomatoes Swing Dance Band and Swing Dancers Tiffany Wine and Kenny Nelson. On August 19, Jacky Terrasson Trio takes the stage with their modern take on classic jazz. Saxophonist and vocalist Curtis Stigers, known

both for his rock and roll past and now as the quintessential jazz singer, brings his unique interpretations of classic jazz tunes to Vail Square on August 26. The free series wraps up on September 2 with the legendary Clayton Brothers Quintet, joined by 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 residence with the Vail Jazz Foundation. Thursday will be their opportunity to shine with one of the most accomplished jazz quintets today. The summer of Jazz culminated with the 16th annual Labor Day Weekend Jazz Party, hosted at the Vail Marriott Mountain Resort and in Vail Square September 2 – 6. Featuring over 30 jazz musicians including Ann Hampton Callaway, Jeff Hamilton Trio, Bobby Broom, Wycliffe Gordon, Byron Stripling, and many other greats, the weekend spans four nights and five days, over 24 hours of jazz. Tickets start at \$45 and are on sale at www.vailjazz.org – purchase tickets before midnight on August 6 and enjoy a \$5 per ticket discount!

Jazz @ Vail Square: At a Glance

Thursday, August 12	Hot Tomatoes Swing Band & Swing Dancing
Thursday, August 19	Jacky Terrasson Trio
Thursday, August 26	Curtis Stigers
Thursday, September 2	Clayton Brothers Quintet & VJF All-Stars

EVENT SPONSORS

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, KUVU 89.3 & KVJZ 88.5 Jazz Public Radio, KVBA-TV8, Lionshead Merchants Association, National Endowment for the Arts, Notably Fine Audio, Plum TV, Ravenscroft Pianos, Ritz-Carlton Residences, Rocky Mountain Reprographics, The Jazz Cruise, Town of Vail, United Way Eagle River Valley, Vail Daily, Vail Resorts Echo, Vail Marriott Mountain Resort & Spa, and many other businesses and private donors.

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

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