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Vail Jazz Foundation Announces Stellar Lineup for Vail Square

Eclectic Mix defines annual celebration of jazz

June 21, 2011 – Vail, Colorado – The Vail Jazz Foundation is gearing up for the 17th annual Vail Jazz Festival, featuring over 30 performances all summer long. Lionshead is the home of both the free Jazz at Vail Square series and the daytime sessions of the Labor Day Weekend Party, while evening performances will be held inside the Marriott Grand Ballroom from September 1 – 5

“We have really pulled out all the stops in 2011,” said Howard Stone, chairman and artistic director of the Vail Jazz Foundation. “Monty Alexander will celebrate his 35 reunion with Jeff Hamilton and John Clayton, over Labor Day, but that’s just the beginning. Jazz at Vail Square is offering four more shows and extraordinary talent -- together the artists will create the magic that is the Vail Jazz Festival.” continued Stone.

The Vail Jazz Party, also known as the Labor Day Weekend Party, is the culmination of the summer long Vail Jazz Festival. This unique mix of world-class musicians utilizes a one-of-a-kind format that includes group performances, multi-artist jam sessions and inspiring multi-media salutes to Jazz legends. The festival’s party atmosphere is ensured by the bringing together of today’s rising stars and the true jazz veterans – jamming in an intimate venue, surrounded by the natural beauty of Vail. With over twenty-four hours of performances throughout the weekend (morning, noon and night), the audience and musicians are connected in a manner that consistently inspires great performances. The Vail Jazz Festival boasts a unique party spirit that attracts musicians and jazz lovers from all over the world.

Confirmed artists for the Labor Day Weekend Jazz Party include accomplished soloists, enlightening multimedia tributes to jazz legends, and dynamic jazz groups. Grammy winning arranger and pianist Bill Cunliffe will present a tribute to the Modern Jazz Quartet, while Louis Armstrong will be saluted by Byron Stripling. Back by popular demand will be trombonist Wycliffe Gordon, drummer Ernie Adams, and vocalist Niki Haris. The Clayton Brothers Quintet anchors the five night, four day festival; consisting of John and Jeff Clayton, Terrell Stafford, Bill Cunliffe and Lewis Nash, the member of the Quintet are educators-in-residence for the annual Vail Jazz Workshop, a week-long intensive course for 12 of the most promising high school-aged jazz musicians in North America, which takes place in Vail during the week before Labor Day. The workshop students perform as the Vail Jazz All Stars, debuting Thursday, September 1 with the Clayton Brothers Quintet at Vail Square.

Tickets, Passes and More Information

Tickets, passes, and gift certificates to the Labor Day Jazz Party can be purchased through the Vail Jazz Foundation office at 970.479.6146, or 888-VAIJAM (824-5526). Afternoon sessions are \$45 (\$55 after August 15), evening sessions are \$55 (\$65 after August 15), an all event pass including preferred seating, Friday wine tasting and Saturday dinner with the artists is \$350/person, and students with ID are free with a paid adult ticket at morning and afternoon sessions. Online tickets are available for purchase at www.vailjazz.org, or purchase them now by phone at 970.479.6146, or 888-VAIJAM (824-5526).

About the Vail Jazz Foundation



The Vail Jazz Foundation (VJF)'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. The VJF is a 501 c 3 non-profit organization that is funded by private and corporate donations as well as grants, and is based in Vail, Colorado.

SPONSORS

The Vail Jazz Festival is generously sponsored by Alpine Bank, Betteridge Jewelers, Colorado Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, EverVail, The Jazz Cruise, Vail Resorts Echo, Vilar PAC Community Use Fund, Colorado Mountain Express, Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation, Lionshead Merchants Association, Londer Vineyards, Ravenscroft Pianos, United Way Eagle River Valley, Vail Valley Foundation, Vilar Performing Arts Center Beaver Creek, and numerous other corporate and private donors.

For more information, contact:

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The Vail Jazz Foundation

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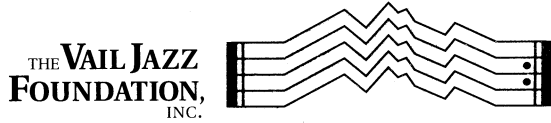
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Vail Jazz Foundation Announces Exciting Lineup for Jazz at Vail Square

FREE Jazz at Vail Square Concerts Thursdays July 7 – September 1, 2011

Vail -- Jazz at Vail Square returns to Lionshead on July 7 with the first of nine free shows outside the Arrabelle Hotel. Presented in a tented venue seating 300+, this dynamic concert series features national jazz artists with styles ranging from Swing to straight ahead, Latin Jazz to the American Songbook. Whether you enjoy the show from a seat in a nearby restaurant or from the front row with a cocktail, Jazz @ Vail Square creates an intimate jazz experience that you won't soon forget. Seating is first come, first served, and the concerts go on under the tent rain or shine.

July 7 CURTIS STIGERS

For two decades, Curtis Stigers has demonstrated that the lines between jazz, pop, soul, rock, blues and even country are not as clearly defined as they may seem. In a trajectory that began with pop/soul albums in the early '90s, the vocalist-saxophonist-songwriter has spent the past several years cementing his reputation as a formidable jazz singer.



[Watch Video: http://bit.ly/aadweL](http://bit.ly/aadweL)

July 14 HOWARD LEVY AND HIS TRIO

Howard Levy is a Grammy award winning, American harmonicist, pianist, composer, and producer. Universally acknowledged as the world's most advanced diatonic harmonica player, Howard was a founding member of the Bela Fleck and the Flecktones.



[Watch Video: http://bit.ly/kGYNQZ](http://bit.ly/kGYNQZ)

July 21 MAGOS HERRERA QUARTET

This Mexico City vocalist blends her classic jazz styling with Latin American melodies and rhythms. The Miami Herald says, "Magos manages to create a new style of Latin scat. It is innovative but clearly jazz and when she does her improvisations of the composed melodies, it is a mind-blowing experience."



[Watch Video: http://bit.ly/aq5aAo](http://bit.ly/aq5aAo)

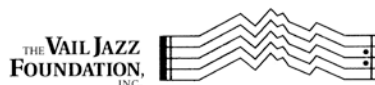
July 28 THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY BAND, THE FALCONAIRES

The band's program includes classic Armed Service Songs plus a variety of other musical styles. Classics such as Rossini's "William Tell Overture," and Handel's "Music from the Royal Fireworks", Irish music, Latin selections, selections from the Broadway smash hit "Wicked" and even a touch of bluegrass are all possible with this uniquely American ensemble.



[Watch Video: http://bit.ly/lop67g](http://bit.ly/lop67g)

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August 4 TOMMY IGOE SEXTET

Drummer Tommy Igoe plays a weekly gig leading the vaunted Birdland Big Band in New York City. Igoe has performed with Stanley Jordan, Art Garfunkel, Lauryn Hill, Patti Austin, David Wilcox and Blood, Sweat and Tears, and he is the principal drummer and associate conductor for the Disney production of "The Lion King" on Broadway.



[Watch Video: http://bit.ly/dOUMjI](http://bit.ly/dOUMjI)

August 11 MARCIA BALL

Singer/pianist Marcia Ball knows how to raise roofs with her infectious, deeply emotional brand of southern boogie, rollicking, roadhouse blues and heartfelt ballads. Her exquisite piano playing and playful vocals fuse New Orleans and Gulf Coast R&B with Austin's songwriting tradition into a compelling mix of *rock, rhythm and roll with handful of blues*.



[Watch Video: http://bit.ly/kDvyhU](http://bit.ly/kDvyhU)

August 18 TONY MONACO QUARTET

Celebrated organist Tony Monaco will share his enthusiastic and spirited style on the B3 Hammond organ. Voted a top B-3 player in 2005, 2006 and 2007 in the DownBeat Critics' and Readers' polls and JazzTimes Readers' poll, Tony has gained well-deserved recognition for his mastery of the B3 and his explosive, energetic presence.



[Watch Video: http://bit.ly/4Hol0y](http://bit.ly/4Hol0y)

August 25 HOT TOMATOES SWING BAND WITH SWING DANCE INSTRUCTION

The Hot Tomatoes Dance Orchestra and a professional swing dance couple bring authentic re-creations of music by the greats of the swing era; Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller and Harry James. Enjoy jazz that makes you want to dance!



[Watch Video: http://bit.ly/mCp0HX](http://bit.ly/mCp0HX)

September 1 CLAYTON BROTHERS QUINTET AND THE VJF ALL-STARS

Grammy winning bassist/composer/conductor John Clayton, Jeff Clayton on saxophone, Terrell Stafford on trumpet, Bill Cunliffe on piano and Lewis Nash on drums make up the Quintet. 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, will have the opportunity to shine on stage with one of the most accomplished jazz quintets of today.



[Watch Video: http://bit.ly/l4X4B8](http://bit.ly/l4X4B8)

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