

NEWS RELEASE

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VAIL JAZZ FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES JOINT CONCERT WITH BRAVO! VAIL VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL

October 13, 2011 – Vail, Colorado – The Vail Jazz Foundation is pleased to announce that it will jointly present with the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival renown recording artist Curtis Stigers in a pops concert with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra conducted by Jeff Tyzik on July 2, 2012 at the Ford Amphitheater. The concert represents the first collaboration between the two Vail-based music presenting organizations.

The Vail Jazz Festival's 17th season wrapped up just weeks ago with record attendance and ticket sales. The 2011 season of the Jazz Festival included a total of 26 shows – 9 weekly free concerts at Vail Square, 10 free weekly concerts at the Vail Farmers' Market in Solaris and 7 shows, including two free, as part of the Labor Day Weekend Jazz Party. The Vail Jazz Festival is now established as a summer-long festival with performances at appealing venues with world class talent that matches summer Vail's reputation for quality and excellence. Attendance was up more than 20%; ticket sales up 20% and doubled in the past four years.

“The Vail Jazz Festival is now recognized as a premier event in Vail, drawing guests from all over the world,” says founder and chairman, Howard Stone. “I am incredibly excited that we will have the opportunity to join with Bravo for the first time to present a concert at the Ford Amphitheater and for that show to feature Curtis Stigers, one of the most popular performers on the scene today.”

Bringing together the Vail Jazz Foundation and Bravo! has been a concept for a number of years, but will become reality on July 2nd. Curtis Stigers is a singer, song writer, saxophonist and very hip interpreter of the American songbook who has performed with many orchestras throughout the world. This will be his first performance with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in which he will be joined by his trio in a program that is guaranteed to combine Curtis' unique style with the creative genius of Jeff Tyzik, one of America's most in demand pops conductors. Curtis will also perform a few numbers with Tyzik and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra as part of their Patriotic Concert on July 4th. Tickets for the joint production will be handled through Bravo's ticket sales outlets.

Christopher Loudon of the Jazz Times recently wrote of Stigers, *"If voices, like wines, had noses, Curtis Stigers' would be dusky oak with hints of Willie Nelson, Harry Nilsson, Ray Charles and Matt Dennis. It's a voice that's at once young and old, tender and tough, warm and inviting as a caress, yet sturdy as a firm handshake..."*

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. In addition to performances, the organization takes jazz into the schools in an effort 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.

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