



NEWS RELEASE

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**VAIL JAZZ FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
PRELIMINARY LINEUP FOR 15TH ANNUAL VAIL JAZZ FESTIVAL**

March 4, 2009 – Vail, Colorado – The Vail Jazz Festival is warming up for its 15th anniversary season, which will feature live jazz concerts at indoor and outdoor venues in and around Vail, Colorado this summer, culminating with the Vail Jazz Party over Labor Day weekend..

“We are putting together a terrific group of artists that promises some great jazz performances,” said Howard Stone, chairman and artistic director of the Vail Jazz Foundation. “We’re seeking out the latest and greatest, but we’re also bringing back some requested favorites to make this, our 15th anniversary season in Vail, better than ever,” continued Stone.

Confirmed artists include accomplished jazz soloists as well as highly acclaimed groups. A favorite on the jazz and pops concert circuit, vocalist Ann Hampton Callaway will return to the Vail Jazz Party. Also appearing will be tenor saxophonist Joel Frahm and trombonist Wycliffe Gordon. Back by popular demand will be Benny Green, a one-of-a-kind pianist, alto saxophonist Antonio Hart and B-3 organist Tony Monaco.

Returning groups include the Jeff Hamilton Trio, who performed as part of 2008 Jazz at Vail Square series, and will this year play the Labor Day Jazz Party. The Clayton Brothers Quintet will once again be a major force at the Jazz Party. In addition to the many accomplishments as the Quintet and the Clayton Brothers Jazz Orchestra, Brothers John and Jeff Clayton have just released a new CD, ‘Brother to Brother’, for which the Vail Jazz Foundation is executive producer. The Clayton Brothers Quintet, consisting of John and Jeff Clayton, Terrell Stafford, Bill Cunliffe and Lewis Nash, also doubles as educators-in-residence for the annual Vail Jazz Workshop, a week-long intensive course for promising high school-aged jazz musicians, which takes place in Vail during the week before

Labor Day. The workshop students will also perform as the Vail Jazz All Stars at the Jazz Party. Other favorites scheduled to return include Denver's own Mile High Chapter Choir, who will share their own brand of gospel music at the Jazz Party, and Bill Cunliffe, who will present a multi media Salute to one of Jazz' greatest masters.

Tickets, Passes and More Information

Tickets, passes, or gift certificates to the Labor Day Jazz Party can be purchased through the Vail Jazz Foundation office at 970.479.6146, or 888-VAILJAM (824-5526). Online tickets will soon be available for purchase at www.vailjazz.org.

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.

For more information, contact:

Mia Vlaar

The Vail Jazz Foundation

P.O. Box 3035, Vail, CO 81658

vjf@vailjazz.org

www.vailjazz.org