



Jazz Aspen Snowmass Announces 2008 “Jazz” Shows & Collaborations

Aspen, CO – January 7, 2008 – Jazz Aspen Snowmass is known for bringing some of the biggest names in popular music to their festival stages. However, it is Jazz music that has always been the heart of JAS. With only a limited amount of jazz musicians able to draw the crowds JAS requires for its festival productions, they have come to find that jazz is ideally suited to smaller venues and hopes by adding year-round performances that they can build and serve the audience for jazz music in the Roaring Fork Valley.

In 2008 JAS will present multiple jazz performances around the Valley, in a variety of partnerships with other local non-profits and venues. On February 21, JAS in association with the Wheeler Opera House, will present Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist Steve Tyrell. Five of Tyrell’s American Standards albums have achieved top 5 status on Billboard’s Jazz charts and his first album, “A New Standard” was amongst the best selling jazz albums for over 5 years.

Jazz pianist Bill Charlap, regarded as one of the premiere interpreters of the Great American Songbook, will perform on March 14 at Harris Hall in association with the Aspen Institute. Earlier that day, Charlap will participate in a Jazz & Democracy Seminar as part of the “Arts & Ideas” series at the Aspen Institute with JAS Executive Producer Jim Horowitz.

After a number of successful endeavors last summer, JAS and the Aspen Music Festival are planning two collaborations at the Music Tent next year. Jazz vocalist Patti Austin, with a guest Big Band, will perform on June 24, the Tuesday following the JAS June Festival, in a “Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald”, reprising her Grammy nominated homage to the first lady of American song.

And on July 22, Cuban born vocalist Issac Delgado, the heart and soul of timba music, will perform at the Music Tent. Delgado was the first major Cuban artist to defect from Cuba in 25 years when he left in early 2007. Since then he

has taken the US by storm with his dense and complex fusion of salsa, jazz and funk. Said the NY Daily News, "He can...work any crowd into a frenzied rumba, as well as make them cry with heart-wrenching boleros on an acoustic guitar."

In addition the JAS Ten-Spot series will continue from January-June, featuring affordable live music each month in association with Thunder River Theatre in Carbondale. Future ten-spot shows will be announced shortly.

Ticket information for each of these performances can be found at www.jazzaspen.org or by calling the JAS Office at 920-4996.

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