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JAS to present "Band Battle '09" @ Roaring Fork High School in Carbondale May 2nd 20 Bands/5 Hours

Aspen, CO, March 10, 2009 – JAS announced today that it would continue the long standing tradition of Battle of the Bands, formerly held in Basalt Town Park, by introducing "Band Battle '09" at Roaring Fork High School in Carbondale on Saturday, May 2nd. The event will feature 20 student bands over five hours (noon to 5pm) and will be held inside the High School eliminating any concern of May weather.

"This is exciting for JAS." says Joe Lang, Director of JAS, "Promoting live music with the next generation of local student musicians is extremely important to us, and this event crosses over and reaches out to not only the Valley schools' music programs, but also to students outside those programs that have their own musical interest and have garage bands. This can really become the centerpiece of our Local Education Initiative."

The competition is open to students up to and thru the high school level, where 20 bands will be showcased from Noon to 5pm. The showcase is open to Western slope region. Each band will have a 10-minute set length. Winners will have a chance to perform at the Jazz Aspen Snowmass June Festival on the Cooper Mall Free Stage, sponsored by the City of Aspen on Saturday, June 27th, and another performance at the JAS Labor Day Festival "Village Stage" in early September at Snowmass Village Town Park.

Steve Marker, has been brought on-board as Program Director and is the founding member of the seven-times Grammy nominated band *Garbage*, an owner of Smart Studios in Madison, WI, and a full time resident of Carbondale. "This event is important because there are so few opportunities for kids to play in public here in the valley. You can practice all day long, but the excitement of performing is the thing that's going to motivate you to keep getting better."

In an effort to further promote student musicians JAS will be constructing a message board on their website www.myspace.com/jasbandbattle which will not only promote this years event, but will also serve as a place for student musicians to communicate/post and stay current on gigs.

For more information and to download the entry form for Battle Band '09 please visit www.jazzaspen.org or e-mail questions to: bandbattle@jazzaspen.org

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