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**JAZZ ASPEN SNOWMASS
ANNOUNCES MOVE TO AMFS' BENEDICT MUSIC TENT FOR JUNE
FESTIVAL '09**

***NEW FORMAT TO INCLUDE SECOND WEEKEND OF MUSIC
IN MULTIPLE VENUES IN DOWNTOWN ASPEN***

June 18 – 28 Festival Dates to span Multiple Aspen Venues

Jazz Aspen Snowmass announced that its season opening JAS June festival, which has taken place in Rio Grande Park in downtown Aspen since 2002, will re-locate the festival's headline artist performances for the 2009 season to the AMFS [Aspen Music Festival and School's 2,050-seat] Benedict Music Tent Thurs, June 18 - Sat, June 20.

The festival will continue the following week Thurs, June 25 – Sun, June 28 with multiple performances featuring this year's brilliant group of JAS Academy artists at a variety of clubs, restaurants, bars and patios in downtown Aspen. This new format recalls the pedestrian friendly vibe of Comedy Fest, where one ticket will allow entry into multiple venues. The internationally recognized JAS Academy features the nation's finest young artists who are in residence in Aspen during the festival and will be featured in multiple shows nightly, as well as free afternoon performances at the Cooper Ave. Mall. The JAS Academy was launched by JAS in 1996 and is under the Artistic direction of noted bassist, composer and educator, Christian McBride.

Additional performances are also under consideration and will be announced at a later time. These include potential collaborations with Belly Up and the Aspen Music Festival and School, with whom in the last two years JAS has co-presented artists at the Benedict Tent including multiple Grammy winners Wynton Marsalis, The Count Basie Orchestra and Patti Austin.

“This is an idea whose time has come,” stated JAS Founder & CEO Jim Horowitz. “We have discussed this move to the weekend prior to the traditional AMFS season opening weekend off and on for years, and for a variety of reasons, we are confident this will be an exciting development for our organization, help maintain JAS as a vital community asset even during a challenged economic environment, and, alleviate the convergence of the JAS and AMFS festivals bumping into each other with simultaneous openings.”

“We have discussed the logistical side of the event as well with both Food & Wine (whose dates JAS June will now overlap) as well as the City of Aspen, and given the simplicity of JAS utilizing the existing tent and grounds of the Benedict Music Tent vs. the elaborate effort of constructing and de-constructing the venue at Rio Grande

Park, as well as the specific schedule of events June 18 - 20, we expect a seamless transition to these new dates and format.”

“We are delighted to be taking our collaboration with Jazz Aspen Snowmass to the next level by hosting their June festival in our Tent,” says AMFS President and CEO Alan Fletcher. “Between the Food & Wine Classical and JAS’s always-exciting line-up of stars one weekend, and then our opening the following weekend, Aspen will be *the* place to be next June. In addition, the AMFS and JAS are preparing another brilliant collaborative presentation for Saturday June 27. Stay tuned for details.”

JAS has also announced that the traditional four day format of the JAS Labor Day Festival in Snowmass will be changed to a three day festival in 2009, Fri Sept. 4 – Sun. Sept. 6.