

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



MUSIC LOVERS CAN PICK FROM THE BANQUET OF
SUMMER MUSIC OFFERINGS
AT JAZZ ASPEN SNOWMASS 2008.
ARTISTS ANNOUNCED
FOR THE UPCOMING SUMMER SEASON

Aspen, CO (March 27, 2008)—Music is an incredible feast of possibilities, and Jazz Aspen Snowmass (JAS) has arranged a menu for the summer of 2008 that will touch every taste, salute every genre, and please the most jaded palate. JAS presented by Calamos Investments will kick off its mid-June festival (Thursday, June 19 to Sunday, June 22) in Rio Grande Park, Aspen, on the 19th with the Queen of jazz vocalizing, **Dianne Reeves**. The extraordinary Brazilian newcomer **Bebel Gilberto** will open the evening. On Saturday, June 21st, the 28-piece **Brian Setzer Orchestra**, will rock and swing the grand white tent to its foundations, with soul sensation **Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings** opening. The lineup for Friday, June 20th will be announced shortly. On Sunday June 22nd, **Los Lonely Boys** will rock the house with co-headline act tba. Finally, on Tuesday June 24th, **The Count Basie Orchestra** will back 2008 Grammy winning vocalist **Patti Austin** in her tribute “For Ella,” in a collaborative show with the Aspen Music Festival and School at the Benedict Music Tent. A second collaboration with the AMFS will take place on Tuesday July 22 featuring the brilliant Cuban salsa and timba singer **Issac Delgado**, the first major artist to defect from Cuba in the last twenty-five years.

In between the two big events, on July 24th JAS will present **The Blues Brothers** for its JASummerNights Gala, supporting JAS music education programs, at the Belly Up in Aspen.

The second stage of the summer's music will come Labor Day weekend (Thursday, August 28 to Monday, September 1st) at Snowmass Town Park, when JAS presented by Calamos Investments will offer up five varied days and nights of music: on both Thursday the 28th and Friday the 29th, the hugely popular Southern jam band **Widespread Panic**; on Sunday, August 31st, the founder of Creedence Clearwater Revival, **John Fogerty**, and on Monday, September 1st, the leading edge of current American string band music, **Yonder Mountain String Band**, with the legendary dobro player **Jerry Douglas** opening.

This season's festival sponsors include title sponsor Calamos Investments, host sponsors The Town of Snowmass Village, the Silvertree Hotel, Centre of the Rockies, Miller Genuine Draft, The Denver Post and CME. Other sponsors include the Viceroy Resorts and Residences Snowmass, Outside Magazine, Alpine Bank, SkinCeuticals, KSPN, Patron Tequila, and DownBeat.

Tickets for both Festivals will go on **sale to the public on Mon April 7** by telephone at 866-JAS-TIXX (527-8499), or on-line at www.jazzaspen.org For information on festival patron tickets please contact the JAS office at 970 920 4996.

For more information on all JAS Summer Events please visit www.jazzaspen.org.

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ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Thursday, June 19: **Dianne Reeves, Bebel Gilberto** opening

Dianne Reeves is the preeminent jazz vocalist of her generation. Music permeated her childhood, from her trumpet-playing mother to her cousin, the well-known pianist George Duke, to her uncle, Charles Burrell, the bassist for the Denver Symphony Orchestra. Thanks to Uncle Charles, she encountered the music of her inspiration, Sarah Vaughan. At the age of 16, she was singing with her high school big band, which won a festival competition, which resulted in Dianne meeting the great trumpeter Clark Terry, who became her mentor. After working with Sergio Mendes and Harry Belafonte, she

went solo, and struck gold. In 2001, 2002, and 2003 she won Grammys for Best Vocal Performance for, respectively, *In the Moment*, *The Calling*, and *A Little Moonlight*. In 2006 she won her fourth Grammy for her bravura contributions to the soundtrack of the George Clooney homage to Edward R. Murrow, *Good Night, and Good Luck.*”

Bebel Gilberto walks – quite comfortably and confidently - in very large shoes; she is the daughter of the man who created *bossa nova*, Joao Gilberto. At the age of nine she sang at Carnegie Hall with her mother, Gilberto’s second wife, Miucha, and Stan Getz. Born in the U.S., she moved to Rio de Janeiro as a young woman and began writing songs with performers like Cazusa, one of the rock stars of Brazil. After she recorded her first solo EP, she moved to New York, where she instantly made her mark in a Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) tribute to Carmen Miranda. She became a fixture in the NY downtown – and uptown scene at laces like Metronome, the Ballroom, the Rainbow Room, and Lincoln Center. Her debut album, *Tanto Tempo*, has sold over a million copies and received two Grammy nominations; her second album, *Bebel Gilberto*, received another Grammy nomination.

Saturday, June 21st: **Brian Setzer Orchestra; Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings** opening

Early in the 1980s, a phenomenon hit the United States – the Stray Cats, led by Brian Setzer, produced stylized hit songs – “Rock This Town,” “Stray Cat Strut” – that recalled the origins of rock and roll, as documented by Sun Records and particularly by Bill Haley and the Comets. Complete with spit curls and attitude, the Stray Cats – “We got cat class and we got cat style” – rocked MTV and the country. As bands will, success shattered the Stray Cats, setting Setzer free to do as his musical instincts led – so he kicked off another phenomenon, the swing craze of the 1990s. Epitomized in their remake of Louis Jordan’s “Jump, Jive an’ Wail,” the **Brian Setzer Orchestra** mixed rockabilly and swing, and did so very well that when the craze had faded, the band endured. They remain among the more popular big (28 pieces!) bands in America.

In the recent past, as Ms. Amy Winehouse’ debut album took the nation by musical storm; the untold secret ingredient was her backing band, **Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings**. Their story is a fascinating one.

In the mid-1990s, a band called the Soul Providers began recording an album of instrumentals inspired by James Brown. – which is the key, because there is a very special place in the musical heavens for James Brown. We tend to think of him as the hardest working man in show business, but what he did as musical director of his band – the unique and extraordinary fusion of nasty bass, jazz, blues, R & B that became known as funk – that special creation has spread through American music ever since “Please, Please, Please.” The Dap-Kings are about extending that legacy. As they recorded, they found out that their backup singer, Sharon Rogers, was the real deal. Among other moments of inspired madness, they recorded the old Kenny Rogers hit, “I Just Dropped In (to see What Condition by Condition was In,” and began what is going to be a very long, very successful career. Funk lives. At the Dap-King’s house.

Sunday, June 22nd: **Los Lonely Boys**

Henry, Jojo, and Ringo Garza are the **Los Lonely Boys**, sons of ‘70s Texas *conjunto* player Enrique Garza of The Falcones. The boys sang with their father as kids, and as they grew up, listened to Carlos Santana, Stevie Ray Vaughn, and Ritchie Valens. The result was what they called Texican music, a blend of blues, country, soul and Tejano forms. It works; they’ve already won a Grammy and played with the likes of Willie Nelson, ZZ Top, the Doobie Brothers, and the Rolling Stones. They’re what folks in the music business call hot – not because of any hype, but because they’ve found a sound that’s genuine – and genuinely theirs.

July 24, the Belly Up in Aspen, JASummerNights Gala: **The Blues Brothers**

The movie was of course a legendary comedic triumph, but the root of the joke was a love for music, specifically African-American Chicago electric blues music. Elwood and Jake Blues were backed by one of the great bands, which included Steve Cropper and Duck Dunn (Stax-Volt’s house band), Matt “Guitar” Murphy, and many more great players. Even without Jake, the power of the music keeps the Blues Brothers driving – and the party will absolutely be as much fun possible within the law.

Thursday, August 28, and Friday, August 29: **Widespread Panic**

Once upon a time, long, long ago, bands like the Grateful Dead and the Allman Brothers showed that rock music could fuse with improvisatory jazz. In the 1980s the

media began calling this the jam band phenomenon. In 1985, two University of Georgia students, Michael “Panic” Houser and John Bell, began playing as **Widespread Panic** in Athens, Georgia. Twenty-two years later, without pop-level record sales or radio play, they’ve achieved numerous records as a legendary live act, ranking among the top 50 touring acts in the country for eight years running. With their most recent addition, former Allman Brothers and Phil guitarist Jimmy Herring (Michael Houser had passed from pancreatic cancer), they’ve ascended to the top of the very tall jam-band pile. They *will* rock you.

Sunday, August 31: **John Fogerty**

It is not true that John Fogerty wrote every hit song on the radio between 1968 and 1970 – it merely seems that way. Fusing elements of basic ‘50s roots rock and what was called the swamp groove – good going for a band from suburban San Francisco! – Creedence Clearwater Revival broke with a remake of the rockabilly classic “Suzie Q,” and then began to stack up classic after classic, each still listened to: “Proud Mary,” “Born on the Bayou,” “Bad Moon Rising,” “Lodi,” “Green River,” “Down on the Corner,” “Fortunate Son,” and “Travelin’ Band,” among many others. After years on the road, CCR broke up, and John would assume a solo career that has seen more hits, most notably “Centerfield.” John Fogerty’s music is quite simply one of the finest examples of classic American songwriting in existence.

Monday, September 1: **Yonder Mountain String Band; Jerry Douglas**, opening

In the 1980s and early ‘90s, when synthesizers, flash and dance moves seemed the whole of American popular music, it seemed as though respect for traditional roots/folk/string music was about over. Not so. As the ‘90s passed, the phrase “jamgrass” emerged, as countless bands across the country blended bluegrass, folk, country, and improvisation into a sparkling, splendid new creation. Among the very best was **Yonder Mountain String Band**, which formed to play an opening set at the Fox Theater in Boulder, Colorado – fertile ground for roots-oriented music like Dave Matthews Band, String Cheese Incident, and many others. YMSB, featuring Jeff Austin on mandolin, Ben Kauffman on bass, Dave Johnston on banjo, and Adam Aijala on guitar (all four sing), make truly American music combining many elements into a soulful, heart-touching four man symphony.

The Coen Brothers' *O Brother, Where Art Thou*, and the subsequent "Down from the Mountain" music tours it spawned, performed a number of great services to fans of American music. One of the best of those services was in bringing forward the work of the greatest of American dobro players, **Jerry Douglas**. Since Douglas has contributed to more than 1000 albums as a side man, backing musicians as varied as Ray Charles, Peter Rowan, Béla Fleck, Emmylou Harris, Phish, Dolly Parton, Paul Simon, Ricky Skaggs, Bill Frisell, John Fogerty, Nanci Griffith, Tony Rice and James Taylor, it's not as though he was unknown. And 12 Grammys attest to his reputation as the instrument's best. But his work with Alison Krause and Union Station in the film and tour have brought much-deserved attention to his brilliant playing. He also won in 2004 a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. He's simply brilliant.