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A Fort Collins Jazz Experience

Arts and Culture Partnership Brings Jazz to Downtown Fort Collins

FORT COLLINS, CO Is Fort Collins ready to get jazzed? This is the question that will be answered this July by residents and visitors to Fort Collins. A brand new event, *A Fort Collins Jazz Experience*, will bring the highest quality jazz music and a great jazz experience to the region July 10, 11 & 12. A collaboration of the Downtown Business Association, Arts Alive and Beet Street, this jazz weekend includes three stages of free continuous jazz jams from local and regional musicians, films about jazz, jazz art, educational sessions for students, a renowned jazz historian, as well as a special ticketed performance by the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis**.

Beet Street, a cultural arts organization and economic initiative for Downtown Fort Collins, presents this year's jazz headliner, the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis**, at 8:00pm on Saturday, July 12 at the Fort Collins Lincoln Center. This exciting concert is sponsored by Bohemian Foundation, the Official Music Sponsor for Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis. Headliner tickets go on sale to subscribers of Beet Street's ReBeet e-newsletter beginning Monday, May 5, and to the general public on May 21. (www.beetstreet.org/jazz)

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, composed of 15 of today's finest jazz soloists and ensemble players, has been the Jazz at Lincoln Center resident orchestra of New York's renowned Lincoln Center since 1992. Under Music Director Wynton Marsalis, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra spends over a third of the year on tour. The big band performs a vast repertoire, from rare historic compositions to commissioned works, including compositions and arrangements by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Fletcher Henderson, Thelonious Monk, Mary Lou Williams, Billy Strayhorn, Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Goodman, Charles Mingus, Sy Oliver, Oliver Nelson and many others. A native of New Orleans, Wynton Marsalis is both Music Director and a musician (trumpet) in the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. He began his classical training on trumpet at age 12 and entered the Juilliard School at age 17. Since that time, Mr. Marsalis has recorded more than 30 jazz and classical recordings, which have won him nine Grammy® Awards. In 1997, Mr. Marsalis became the first jazz artist to be awarded the prestigious Pulitzer Prize in music, for his composition, oratorio Blood on the Fields.

A Fort Collins Jazz Experience will begin on Thursday, July 10 with a New Belgium Brewing Co. "Bike-In Movie" about jazz and featuring a live jazz quartet (Titles to be announced at a later date). On Friday, July 11 Beet Street will present an eye-opening lecture "Jazz in the 21st Century" by Dr. Scott DeVeaux, an Associate Professor of Musicology and Director of Graduate Studies at University of Virginia (UVA). DeVeaux is recognized as one of the foremost authorities on Jazz, African-American and American Music. All day Saturday, July 12 people can enjoy a community celebration of jazz will feature free live music in multiple locations throughout Downtown Fort Collins including Old Town Square. That evening people will be able to attend the ticketed performance by **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis**. Multiple downtown venues/ businesses will be tying in throughout the weekend and helping to create a diverse jazz environment for jazz fans.

Peggy Lyle, programming and event director for Fort Collins Downtown Business Association, provided a guiding hand in creating *A Fort Collins Jazz Experience*. "We are committed to providing the big picture that Jazz has and continues to paint in America. Music is the cornerstone, but jazz has touched our society in so many extensive ways. We want to bring that whole experience to our community and give them as many ways as possible to celebrate jazz," she said about the new program.

Detailed entertainment schedules and performer information will be available by May 31, 2008.

Info: www.DowntownFortCollins.com or 970-484-6500

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