



Classic Rock meets Classic Country Steve Miller Band/Marty Stuart at the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater, Vail, CO.



One of the many concerts provided by L.P. & The Vinyl, from San Diego, CA.

## *Vail, Colorado Hosts 25th Jazz Festival*

By: Cindy Estes

When you think of Vail, Colorado most likely you envision the village nestled at the base of the Rocky Mountains providing the opportunity for

unparalleled snow skiing. The most popular ski resort in the United States, Vail typically opens to ski and snowboarding from Thanksgiving to mid-April with 195 runs, 32 lifts over a vast



5,289 acres and offers one of the best and largest ski schools in the nation. The legendary black bowls bring skiers from all over the world to ski Vail. Peter Seibert and Earl Eaton both shared a passion and love for skiing and Vail. The summer of 1962 they began work to create skiing in Vail. They cleared the trails, designed the first lift and built the first lodge in a mere five months. Vail was built by skiers for skiers. Vail is definitely a destination winter attraction.



Sunday Market in Vail Village

For a superb summer vacation, Vail offers equally exceptional activities including fly fishing, hiking, biking, premiere golf, swimming, gondola rides, horseback riding, ziplines, Colorado River rafting, train rides, a deluxe movie theatre, luxury hotels/spas, shopping, and off-the-charts restaurants. The open market on Sundays fills the streets of Vail Village with around 130 vendors displaying their local food items, arts, crafts, jewelry, photography and many astonishing works of art. The mild summer climate is ideal for outdoor activities to be enjoyed by all. An extraordinary highlight of visiting Vail is the exceptional MUSIC. Many of the restaurants have live music. Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater seats 1,260 with an additional 1,300 on the grassy hillside for music and dance including Hot Summer Nights, a free weekly series of popular concerts.

And then there is the remarkable Vail Jazz, a 10 week program providing 85 concerts from June —September celebrating its 25th anniversary this summer! World class musicians, 200 artists fill the mountain air with jazz, swing, blues and lively music. It all began 25 years ago, on a snowy February evening when Howard Stone, a resident of Vail, decided he wanted to bring jazz music to Vail, Colorado over Labor Day weekend. Both Howard and his wife Cathy share a love and passion for jazz music and the community of Vail, Colorado. Their first Labor Day Jazz Event not only was a huge success, but Howard and Cathy were delighted to witness how the music brought the community together in fun, enjoyment . . . sharing a true appreciation and love for jazz. The Vail Jazz Foundation was organized with an emphasis on providing educational opportunities for young musicians. Since its inception, 274 high school musicians have been chosen to attend and participate in a 10 day Jazz Workshop. They

study under some of the most highly talented professional musicians during this intense educational opportunity. Workshops include jazz theory, private and group lessons, listening skills and “no written music”. Students play by ear. It’s truly an opportunity of a lifetime. Vail Jazz has a “stellar reputation” as one of the finest performing jazz study opportunities in the world. Twelve accomplished young jazz musicians train alongside professional jazz instructors. The Vail Jazz All-Stars are coveted spots

and each student must complete the entire application process beginning with a written application, followed by a video audition, interview and recommendation from a music professional. The application process begins in January and the final selections are made in June. The committee receives around 150 applicants, narrowed to 30-40 prior to the final 12. The community of Vail, Colorado provide generous support to the Vail Jazz Foundation along with their time, commit-



Justin Grinnell, bassist for LP & the Vinyl enjoys playing Vail Jazz. This group has performed together for 15 years. Artists look forward to playing Vail Jazz.



ment and true appreciation of the events. Many community members open their homes to house students during their 10 day jazz training event. James Kenly, executive director of Vail Jazz shares the same passion for jazz and the commu-



BLT performs frequently during Vail Jazz. Tony Gulizia, keyboard, is instrumental in the Vail Jazz Goes To School program exposing jazz to young music lovers.



Howard Stone, founder, artistic director, chairman of the board celebrates the 25th anniversary of Vail Jazz.

nity of Vail and plays a key role in the event coordination and making sure it runs smoothly. He is informative, helpful and extremely excited about what Vail Jazz has to offer the community, music enthusiasts, participants and educators.

During my 2019 visit, I had the opportunity to attend the concerts of LP & the Vinyl from San Diego, California. They performed at both the Market and at the Remedy located in the Four Seasons. Both concerts were phenomenal. They are so entertaining, love performing together and have worked together for the past 15 years. They compose a lot of their own music and it is exceptional. It's equally enjoyable to listen to the crowd applaud, stand and cheer and often times dance the night away at the Remedy. Marty Stuart with the Steve Miller Band performed at the

Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater as a part of his "Way Out West" Tour.

It appears that Vail Jazz was created similar to the way Vail, Colorado was established. Howard and Cathy Stone shared a passion and love for jazz. They wanted to be able to enjoy it and share it with others . . . Vail Jazz was created. Peter Seibert and Earl Eaton both shared a passion for skiing. They wanted to be able to enjoy it and share it with others and established Vail, Colorado. While visiting Vail, Colorado over the past many years, it's been exciting to witness the many additions and improvements. Especially in the last 10 years, a visit to Vail always included driving by the many cranes in the various construction areas. There are always exciting venues coming to Vail. The most recent being the 2019 project of snowmaking expansion allowing for an earlier ski season, a better late ski season and a more predictable opening ski date.

Vail, Colorado offers something for everyone. It is a happening, fun, friendly place to be. The crisp morning and evening air, the mountain hikes, the afternoon showers followed by sunshine, the most beautiful flowers everywhere, the amazing music, delicious food, night skies, fire pits, and mountain view do not disappoint. It is a gorgeous backdrop for any picture taken and a beautiful wedding destination. Vail provides an atmosphere of fun, relaxation and reconnecting with nature at its finest. A state of the art public bus system is provided free of charge to all. I often hop the bus of an evening after a busy day to ride from one end of Vail to the other just to see the entire Vail Village and mountains lit up at night . . . gorgeous!!

Congratulations to Howard and Cathy Stone and the Community of Vail, Colorado on the celebration of 25 successful years of Jazz in the Mountains!



Flyfishing, one of the popular summer activities.

