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SUMMER OF FREE MUSIC SERIES KICKS OFF WITH DREW EMMITT BAND THIS WEEK
Free concerts include new recycling and composting effort

Snowmass Village, CO (June 24, 2008) – The Snowmass Summer of Free Music Series kicks off this Thursday night at 6 p.m. with the Drew Emmitt Band, which promises an evening with one of the nation's top mandolin players and his signature bluegrass/rock/jamband style. The series, which runs every Thursday throughout the summer, draws crowds by the thousands to socialize with family, friends, and kids on the casual Fanny Hill venue and enjoy a line-up of distinguished acts that concludes with Big Sandy & His Fly Rite Boys on August 21.

New this year, Snowmass Village debuts a composting system at the concerts. In collaboration with the Pitkin County Landfill, Snowmass Village now offers the opportunity for concert-goers not only to recycle glass and plastic, but also to compost appropriate materials to minimize the concert series' impact on the environment. Staff and signage will be on-hand to guide people on which bin to appropriately deposit their trash. Afterwards, the composting bins will be taken to Pitkin County Landfill.

"We're pleased to be able to raise awareness for composting at the concerts," says event director Josh Behrman. "As much as fifty percent of the trash can be sorted and composted back into the earth."

Celebrating its 17th season, the series is organized by the Town of Snowmass Village with music programmed by the esteemed Jazz Aspen Snowmass organization since 1994. Snowmass provides on-site alcohol ranging from inexpensive to import beers and glasses of wine to bottles of fine varietals for purchase on-site. Concert-goers can bring a picnic basket of food and unopened non-alcoholic drinks plus a blanket or low lawn chair for comfortable, casual viewing. A children's Family Fun Zone will include a house of bounce, face painting, clowns, juggling, and more. The concert begins at 6 p.m. on Fanny Hill.

Additional free summer concerts are scheduled throughout the summer including Mavis Staples plus fireworks on July 5, Massive Music with The Outlaws on August 2, and the Snowmass G3 concert with the Dirty Heads on August 9 plus free music on September 6 and 13.

For more information and lodging specials, visit the official Snowmass Village website at www.snowmassvillage.com or call 1-800-SNOWMASS. For media photos and information, contact Allison Johnson at (970) 309-5485.

Snowmass Summer of Free Music Series Schedule:

June 26: Drew Emmitt Band

Drew Emmitt, the dynamic lead singer and mandolin player with the popular jamband Leftover Salmon, delivers his signature bluegrass/rock/jamband style on an array of instruments. One of the nation's top mandolin players, he excels in unique energy driven mandolin licks and his influences include a pantheon of musical heroes including Lowell George, Steve Morse, Duane Allman, John Cowan, Bill Monroe, Sam Bush, Hot Rize and New Grass Revival. (www.drewemmitt.com)

July 3: Freddy Jones Band

Roots-rock specialists in the tradition of groups like the Eagles, The Band and The Allman Brothers, the Freddy Jones Band blends influences from blues, rock and folk music. After five major label releases, sharing the stage with greats like Widespread Panic, Phish, Sheryl Crow, Dave Matthews Band, and Matchbox 20 and a five year

hiatus, the band reunited in 2005 to continue to entertain crowds across the nation. (www.thefreddyjonesband.com)

July 10: Gaelic Storm

Since their inception nearly ten years ago, this five-piece Irish band creates compelling original music that combines fresh arrangements, traditional Irish melody, acoustic instrumentation and unique blends of world rhythms. Playing over 125 dates a year and topping the charts with all five of their albums, Gaelic Storm routinely breaks attendance records, pushing their popularity beyond the world music genre and into the mainstream music consciousness. (<http://gaelicstorm.musiccitynetworks.com>)

July 17: Dan Hicks & The Hot Licks

Singer-songwriter Dan Hicks is truly an American original. Since the early 1960s, Hicks has deftly blended elements of Swing, Jazz, Folk and Country music to create the appealing sound he sometimes calls "Folk Jazz." With lyrics ranging from seriously sublime to the ridiculous, his music has earned Hicks the attention and affection of a new generation of music lovers. (www.danhicks.com)

July 24: Ruthie Foster

This prodigiously gifted singer and songwriter from Texas mixes contemporary folk with old-school gospel and blues, showcasing a powerhouse voice that's drawn comparisons to Ella Fitzgerald and Aretha Franklin. Her latest album, *The Phenomenal Ruthie Foster*, reached number four on the Blues chart in Billboard magazine with music rich in honest spirituality and emotion. (www.ruthiefoster.com)

July 31: Bonerama

An untraditional brass band evoking funk, classic rock and free improvisation, this New Orleans original has been hailed by Rolling Stone magazine, acclaimed by Offbeat Magazine, recognized as the "Best Rock Band" by the Big Easy Awards 2007, and regularly sets the New Orleans club scene afire. (www.bonerama.net)

August 7: Great American Taxi

Great American Taxi is the brain child of Leftover Salmon's Vince Herman, who brought together this prodigiously talented group of Boulder musicians in 2005. The band, which performs 21st century Americana and already has over 200 shows behind them, delivers a performance charged with rich vocal harmonies and textures, a unique rock-folk-reggae-funk-country sound and clever lyrics. (www.greatamericantaxi.net)

Aug 14: Robben Ford

Named one of the "100 Greatest Guitarists of the 20th Century" by Musician magazine, Robben Ford is particularly known for his blues playing as well as his ability to be comfortable in a variety of musical contexts. A four-time Grammy Award nominee, he has played with artists as diverse as Joni Mitchell, Jimmy Witherspoon, Miles Davis, George Harrison, Phil Lesh, Bonnie Raitt, Claus Ogerman, Michael McDonald, among others. (www.robbenford.com)

Aug 21: Big Sandy & His Fly Rite Boys

Since forming in 1988, Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys have emerged as one of the world's most respected practitioners of American roots music, western swing, rockabilly, and traditional country—playing it like they invented it. The band have been inducted into the Rockabilly Hall of Fame. (www.bigsandy.net)

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