

For Immediate Release

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All That Jazz at the Grand Illumination

Virginia Beach, Va. (November 12, 2007) – How do you surpass the twinkling of one hundred thousand lights? With the sparkle only jazz music creates! Three of the brightest, most talented Hampton Roads jazz groups are shining and new this year at The Founders Inn and Spa Grand Illumination. The Billy Williams Trio, The Aimee Bayles and Alan Parker Duo and the Charles Darden Quartet, will each perform Christmas music and jazz standards on Saturday, November 24, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12.00 per person. Call 757-366-5700 or reserve online at www.foundersinn.com.

Billy Williams began playing drums in his grandfather's church at age 10 and began playing jazz at age 13. He is a recent graduate of the Governor's School for the Arts in Norfolk, and currently studies at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). We will be playing varied selections for our concert presentation at the Grand Illumination Celebration. Mr. Williams comments, "Our program will mostly consist of our interpretation of traditional Christmas songs, but we will also perform original works written by members of the band. We are extremely excited and honored to be performing after the Grand Illumination and look forward to performing and seeing everyone there!"

Aimee Bayles, having performed for nearly 20 out of her 23 years, keeps singing paramount; she writes, sings and performs her own music and is a VCU graduate. Alan Parker, a jazz guitarist and graduate of VCU, will accompany Aimee. Charles Darden, known for his strong jazz voice, was named winner of the Local Performing Artist of the Year by *Hampton Roads Magazine*, and Jazz Artist of the Year from *Port Folio* Music Awards.

In addition, The Marines, present at the time of the concert, will accept Toys For Tots donations. The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community.

MORE

About The Founders Inn and Spa

Boasting old-world charm and the finest southern hospitality, The Founders Inn and Spa provides the appeal and warmth of a country inn, accented by beautiful antiques and historic artifacts, with a new \$5 million full-service resort spa, grand scale pool featuring a circular slide and interactive fountains, luxurious amenities and award-winning cuisine. The Inn's 240 guestrooms and suites include High Speed Internet access, generous workspace and views of 26 landscaped acres. Select rooms include gas fireplaces, and views of the lake and formal gardens. The Founders Inn and Spa is located at 5641 Indian River Road in Virginia Beach near exit 286B off Interstate 64 East. For reservations and additional information, please call 800-926-4466 or visit www.foundersinn.com.

Benchmark Hospitality manages The Founders Inn and Spa, as well as three other Virginia properties: Lansdowne Resort near Leesburg, a suburb of Washington, D.C.; and Virginia Crossings Resort in Richmond.

Benchmark Hospitality International, an independent hospitality management company based in The Woodlands (Houston), Texas, operates resorts, conference centers, hotels and condominium resorts both domestically and internationally. For locations of Benchmark Hospitality properties and for additional information, visit Benchmark's Website at www.benchmarkhospitality.com.

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