For Immediate Release

## HAYES GREENFIELD'S JAZZ-A-MA-TAZZ PROVES KIDS CAN SWING, TOO! <u>Award-Winning Jazzman</u> <u>Connects Youth with America's Musical Art Form</u>

"Catch the man who's making jazz cool for kids." – Susan Avery, <u>New York Magazine</u>

"The jazz equivalent of Leonard Bernstein ... Greenfield is bringing jazz to children just as Bernstein brought classics to children in the '60s." – Cam Miller, <u>North County Times</u>

## "Youngsters are encouraged to clap, call out responses, assist in demonstrations and yes, dance ... Mr. Greenfield's quartet proves that jazz isn't old people's music!" – Laurel Graeber, <u>The New York Times</u>

Historically, jazz – America's musical art form – represents a celebration of the present in tandem with hope for the future. There is one artist today whose focus is on reconnecting American youth to that history and keeping jazz alive "from the ground up" by involving kids as participants, erasing the boundaries between performers and audience. Jazz saxophonist **Hayes Greenfield** tours his innovative program, **Hayes Greenfield's Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz**, nationally and internationally this season.

**Hayes Greenfield** introduces jazz to kids as a "hands on" experience. Almost without realizing what they are doing, kids at his shows create jazz. Says Hayes, "What I am trying to do with *Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz* is to show kids how much fun they can have with jazz. To stretch their ears and minds to the magic and joys of improvisation in a way that enables kids to embrace this beautiful music and make it their own. When I get done with them they leave chanting, singing, and knowing that jazz is alive and well and <u>not</u> old fogey music. After coming to my show, they make jazz their own."

An outgrowth of Greenfield's award-winning children's CD (also titled *Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz*, produced by the late artist **Roy Lichtenstein** and his wife **Dorothy**, and featuring vocalists **Richie Havens** and **Miles Griffith**), *Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz* is an interactive show in which Hayes and his band jazz up familiar songs, engaging the audience in a creative, participatory journey of call-and-response, scatting, singing, conducting, interpretive sound, dance, and just plain old be-boppin'. Everyone gets a chance to perform and become part of the ensemble. No instruments required! <u>New York Magazine</u> calls *Hayes Greenfield's Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz* an "innovative, interactive kid-size journey into the world of bebop." <u>Newsday</u> declared it to be "where jazz is way cool!"

"The perfect way to introduce your child to the amazing world of jazz music" writes Donald McDermott of <u>ParentGuide News NY</u>. The response from kids has been nothing short of remarkable. One fifth-grader wrote, "I learned that music is a language and it's a way of communicating with other musicians even if you just met them today. When I got on stage and started to scat, one-fourth of me was embarrassed but the rest was just being myself ... that was one of the best experiences of my life." Another wrote, "I didn't like your show ... I loved it! I loved the scatting ... I really wanted to dance and scat, but I was too embarrassed to do it on stage. I scatted on my seat, clapping along."

Hayes Greenfield's Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz has won praise from such jazz greats as Herbie Hancock and Joe Lovano. According to Hancock, "Hayes Greenfield's Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz is terrific. Here is a guy who cares about our youth and therefore our future." Lovano enthuses, "Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz is a beautiful, joyful experience for kids of all ages. Awareness and appreciation of jazz for children is the key to tomorrow's music!" Legendary jazz critic Stanley Crouch wrote, "Hayes Greenfield is a musician whose grasp of the jazz fundamentals makes him a trouper dedicated to the continuation of the music as an art."

An active member of the New York jazz scene since the late '70s, **Hayes Greenfield** – as sideman – has built enduring associations with such notable artists as Jaki Byard, Rashied Ali, Paul Bley, Barry Altschul, and Richie Havens. As bandleader since the mid-'80s, Hayes has headlined in such popular New York City clubs as the Blue Note, Birdland, the Knitting Factory, and CBGB's. European tours have taken him to the Brighton Jazz Festival in the U.K., the Albi, Coutances, Bordeaux, Amiens, Hyeres, and Avignon Jazz Festivals in France, Germany's Aalen Jazzfest, and the Aarhus Jazz Festival in Denmark. He has recorded a number of critically acclaimed CDs, scored more than 60 films and TV specials, and produced two award-winning short films.

**Hayes Greenfield** plays Vandoren saxophone mouthpieces and reeds, and is endorsed by Vandoren as a Diamond Elite Educator/Artist.

####