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**ASPEN MUSIC FESTIVAL AND SCHOOL AND ASPEN
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL SET CAMPUS REDEVELOPMENT
GROUNDBREAKING FOR SEPTEMBER 2009**

Aspen, Colo. — The Aspen Music Festival and School and Aspen Country Day School announced today the construction schedule of the redevelopment of the Castle Creek Campus. After receiving final approvals on the campus master plan from the Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners last June, the AMFS and ACDS have decided to break ground in fall 2009.

“Both the Festival and the Country Day School have found our core donors to be incredibly generous to the project,” says AMFS President and CEO Alan Fletcher. “And together we have decided the project is poised to start construction in fall 2009.” Adds ACDS Headmaster John Sutor, “The timing of the new campus fits well into the future plans and academic programs of Country Day.”

According to the AMFS Board Treasurer Army Porath, the financing and construction of a project of this magnitude – estimated at \$60 million -- are complex. Both institutions plan to issue debt to cover construction costs, and changes in the financial markets over the past several months have necessitated further planning in that area. In addition, says Country Day Board

President Tom Reagan, the next 12 months will give the project leaders time to finalize and refine details of the construction plan. Staff and board members of both institutions are deeply engaged in the five-year planning process for the new campus, and Harry Teague Architects, Design Workshop, and planning consultant Alan Richman will continue providing professional services.

The 23-acre Castle Creek Campus, located one mile up Castle Creek Road, has been owned by the AMFS and been the center of its student activities for 42 years. It has also been home to Country Day for 38 years. The new campus will provide the facilities necessary for both the internationally-renowned music festival and the independent, pre-kindergarten–eighth grade school to fulfill their missions of serving the arts, children, and the community. Because both institutions will continue to occupy the campus during building, construction is anticipated in three phases over three to five years. Philanthropists Matthew and Kay Bucksbaum have given the lead gift of \$25 million that will name the campus in their honor: the Matthew and Carolyn Bucksbaum Campus.

The new campus will be a complete redevelopment. Three buildings, two from the mining era and one more recent, will be retained. The remainder, structures that are considered deteriorated and inadequate for their purposes, will be replaced. Proposed buildings and amenities include practice rooms, teaching studios, and three acoustically sound rehearsal spaces for the AMFS; and quality classrooms, a science lab, playing field and gym for ACDS. The students of both organizations will benefit from greatly improved social spaces: a dining hall and gathering places, both indoors and outdoors. A perimeter road will create a more pedestrian-friendly environment.

The Aspen Music Festival and School is the United States' premier classical music festival, led by music director David Zinman and presenting more than 350 musical events during its nine-week summer season in Aspen, including orchestra concerts, opera, chamber music, lectures, and children's events. The institution draws top classical musicians from around the world to this charming Colorado mountain retreat for an unparalleled combination of performances and music education. More than 25 percent of events are free and seating on the David Karetsky Music Lawn and in the Music Garden is always free. Next summer the Festival will celebrate its 60th anniversary.

The AMFS's five orchestras are composed of top professionals and music students, many on the cusp of, or already beginning, their professional careers. Hailing from approximately 40 states and 40 countries, the 750 students begin vying for a spot with the AMFS as early as October of the previous year. Renowned alumni include violinists Joshua Bell, Sarah Chang, Robert

McDuffie and Gil Shaham; conductors James Levine and James Conlon; opera star Renée Fleming and bassist Edgar Meyer.

Aspen Country Day School was established in 1969 by a group of local families who sought to provide a strong private school experience for students growing up in the Roaring Fork Valley. It currently enrolls 210 children from age 2½ through eighth grade, with 45 teachers and staff. Recent years have seen a significant increase in enrollment. Students' results on nationally normed standardized tests consistently rank in the top percentiles, and graduates attend many of the nation's most selective boarding and high schools.

Country Day's mission is to create a culture of learning where each child can reach his or her full potential through a personal approach to education and challenging programs in academics, arts and the outdoors. It is an accredited member of the National Association of Independent Schools. Next year Aspen Country Day School will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

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