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## **TAYLOR MADE JAZZ HEADLINES BENEFIT CONCERT TO SUPPORT ARTS EDUCATION**

**BUFFALO, NY (2/23/11)** – World-class entertainers Taylor Made Jazz will serve up the perfect blend of jazz, blues, and funk as they headline a benefit concert to support Young Audiences of Western New York, the region’s leading arts education provider. The event, titled *Beats & Brews*, begins at 8:30 p.m. on March 24 at Sportsmen’s Tavern on Amherst Street. Supporting performances feature FunkBelly, an all-star ensemble featuring Eric Crittenden, Zuri Appleby, Reagan D Ray Jackson, and Dale Toliver.

Van Taylor, a Buffalo Music Hall of Fame Inductee, formed Taylor Made Jazz in 1987 to work and perform on a various levels, specifically emphasizing the importance of education and community service. Taylor -and many of the other musicians featured at *Beats & Brews*- is a Young Audiences teaching artist, working extensively in schools, after school venues, and community locations to engage children in creative learning through the arts.

“It’s been a privilege and a joy to promote the arts with Young Audiences through a thing called jazz,” said Taylor. “I love showing students how jazz started, why it started, and demonstrating our group’s contributions to the art form.” The ensemble’s educational performances and workshops are interactive, and range from introductions to jazz and blues to life-skill development in workshops like “The Business of Music.”

In addition to working with students, Taylor Made Jazz is highly recognized for its generous and ongoing work entertaining our troops and allies overseas through Armed Forces Entertainment (AFR), MWR, USO and many international charities. Taylor himself began performing for troops overseas during the Vietnam War, and continues to support military personnel and their families when at home in Buffalo through performances at charitable events and by visiting enlisted and veteran men and women at hospitals throughout the region.

Through its work with outstanding artists like Taylor Made Jazz, Young Audiences of Western New York serves over 60,000 young people in over 100 schools and community centers each year with extensive programming ranging from individual assembly performances to in-depth multiyear residencies in the classroom. Event proceeds from *Beats & Brews* support bringing arts programs to children throughout the eight counties of Western New York.

Event details and tickets for *Beats & Brews* are available online at [www.yawny.org](http://www.yawny.org) or by calling 716.881.0917. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Featured performances and events will take place from 8:30-10:30 p.m., with supporting performances from 10:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Sportsmen’s Tavern is located at 326 Amherst Street in Buffalo.

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**ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES:** Young Audiences of Western New York is a not-for-profit arts-in-education organization whose mission is to make the visual, performing, and literary arts a part of young people’s lives in order to enhance their development as creative and productive human beings. This mission is fulfilled every day within the eight counties of Western New York with performances, workshops, and residencies in educational, cultural, and community centers. In operation for 49 years, Young Audiences’ teaching artists support children learning core curriculum subjects through the arts, with over 100,000 artist contacts for children and families each year. Visit [www.yawny.org](http://www.yawny.org) for more information about Young Audiences of Western New York.