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For more information, bios and downloadable photos, please visit:

<http://www.jazzatlincolncenter.org/TheRoad>

				
Adam Klipple & Drive-By Leslie	AFAR	Alvin Atkinson & The Sound Merchants	Ari Roland Quartet	Duende Quartet
				
Opus Akoben	The Charlie Porter Quartet	The Cultures of Rhythm	T.V.O.A.	

The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad
Ensembles
Perform Free Concerts in New York City at
Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* and in Washington, D.C. at
the National Geographic Society

Featured bands:

- Adam Klipple & Drive-By Leslie
- AFAR
- Alvin Atkinson & The Sound Merchants
- Ari Roland Quartet
- Duende Quartet
- Opus Akoben Hip-hop Ensemble
- The Charlie Porter Quartet
- The Cultures of Rhythm
- T.V.O.A.

New York, New York (12/20/06) **Jazz at Lincoln Center** and the **U.S. Department of State** announced today the dates of free U.S. concerts featuring six jazz and three urban quartets selected to participate in the 2007 **The Rhythm Road**:

American Music Abroad program. The program is designed to promote cross-cultural exchange in areas with limited access to American music and culture, including Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. To kick-off their international tours to these regions, each ensemble will be presented in a showcase performance at Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* in New York City, as well as at The National Geographic Society in Washington D.C.

While on tour the ensembles will perform public concerts and participate in outreach activities including master classes, lecture-recitals, workshops, jam sessions, and media appearances. The group AFAR recently traveled to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Tanzania as part of this program.

The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad Program is co-produced by Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State, and U.S. Embassies abroad.

Free Concerts at Dizzy's *Coca-Cola*, Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City:

Broadway at 60th Street, 5th floor, www.jalc.org

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Ensemble</u>
January 13, 2007	1pm	T.V.O.A.
January 27, 2007	1pm	Duende Quartet
January 27, 2007	3pm	Alvin Atkinson & The Sound Merchants
February 24, 2007	1pm	The Charlie Porter Quartet
February 24, 2006	3pm	Adam Klipple & Drive-By Leslie
March 10, 2007	1pm	Ari Roland Quartet
March 10, 2007	3pm	The Cultures of Rhythm
March 31, 2007	1pm	Opus Akoben Hip-hop Ensemble
March 31, 2007	3pm	AFAR

Free Concerts co-produced with National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C.:

National Geographic's Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW. Free parking is available. Information: 202-857-7700, www.nglive.org

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Ensemble</u>
February 2, 2007	6pm	Alvin Atkinson & The Sound Merchants
February 2, 2007	7:15pm	Duende Quartet
February 23, 2007	6pm	The Charlie Porter Quartet
February 23, 2007	7:15pm	Adam Klipple & Drive-By Leslie
March 9, 2007	6pm	Ari Roland Quartet
March 9, 2007	7:15pm	T.V.O.A.
March 30, 2007	6pm	AFAR
March 30, 2007	7:15pm	Opus Akoben Hip-hop Ensemble

Adam Klipple and Drive-By Leslie skillfully fuse funk, world music allusions, dissonant harmonies and jazzy improvisations in a way that is both expansive and accessible. The band explores many styles of electric jazz from the organ trio to the present.

Alvin Atkinson and The Sound Merchants integrate heavy jazz and blues influences with inflections of rhythms and melodies from around the world. The



WYNTON MARSALIS, Artistic Director
KATHERINE E. BROWN, Executive Director

group's mission is to share their spirit and music with audiences worldwide as literal merchants of sound.

The members of the **Ari Roland Quartet** have been performing together for two decades. In addition to a nine-year run at the New York City jazz club Smalls, they have toured internationally and have recorded extensively for Smalls Records.

The Charlie Porter Quartet was formed in 2005 and is becoming a steady presence in New York City clubs and performance venues. The group's main focus is to develop new music while also keeping tradition alive with standard jazz repertoire.

The Cultures of Rhythm is a New York-based collective of experienced young musicians from a variety of musical backgrounds. With a wide variety of perspectives represented, the players find common ground on a fundamental level, and the resulting musical explorations are a celebration of soulfulness, distilled into exciting new forms.

Duende Quartet is devoted to playing Latin jazz in the style of Mongo Santamaria, Cal Tjader and Willie Bobo with a taste of the legendary Blue Note Records sound of the 60s. In a unique small group setting Duende Quartet captures the vibe of the jazz combo, with piano as the lead instrument, while using the rhythms of a Cuban conjunto.

AFAR is an instrumental hip-hop band with jazz, R&B and gospel influences. Through its recordings, performances, and educational workshops nationally and abroad, the band seeks to spread the message that in this age of electronic music, live instrumentation remains the source of it all.

Opus Akoben is an innovative rhyme-driven hip-hop funk band. The band calls its sound "funk hop" and describes it as "what Sly and the Family Stone would sound like if they did hip hop."

T.V.O.A blends classic theme-driven hip-hop with the subtle nuances of R&B, creating music intended to go straight to the heart with lyrics and melodies that resonate with the soul.

***Applications for the 2008 program are due on January 30, 2007.
Visit: www.jalc.org/theroad***

For more information visit: www.jalc.org and www.nglive.org

The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad Program is made possible with the underwriting support from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State.

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