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**THE 2009 RHYTHM ROAD: AMERICAN MUSIC ABROAD
PROGRAM ANNOUNCES RYAN COHAN QUARTET TOUR DATES**
RYAN COHAN QUARTET *CHOSEN FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN AND RUSSIAN TOUR TO
ADVANCE CULTURAL EXCHANGE*

For High Res photos: http://www.jalc.org/TheRoad_noFI/embassy.html#cohan

Who/What:

Jazz at Lincoln Center and the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs announced the Ryan Cohan Quartet will tour to Eastern Europe and Russia with *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* program. The jazz quartet from Chicago, IL was selected from a pool of 89 applicants to travel abroad and promote cross-cultural understanding. International tour activities include public concerts, master classes, lecture-demonstrations, workshops, jam sessions, media outreach and collaborations with local musicians.

Where/When:

Ryan Cohan Quartet will tour Russia (Feb. 9-22), Ukraine (Feb. 23-28) and Belarus (Mar. 1-7)

**Dates and locations subject to change*

How:

For more information visit *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* at www.jalc.org/TheRoad. In addition, you can listen to music and stories about the program free of charge on Jazz at Lincoln Center Radio at <http://www.jalc.org/jazzcast/program.asp?programNumber=262> and <http://www.jalc.org/jazzcast/program.asp?programNumber=205>

Sponsorship:

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

For more information:

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RYAN COHAN QUARTET constantly seeks new musical territory for exploration while remaining deeply rooted in jazz and blues traditions. Conversant in a variety of world music styles and rhythms, the Chicago-based quartet has distinguished itself on major stages throughout North America by balancing dynamic and tight ensemble playing with explosive, expressive solos. Through jazz, the Ryan Cohan Quartet stimulates genuine, personal connections—the ensemble has audiences and musicians alike clapping, dancing and improvising to its fiery tunes.

The 2008-2009 Rhythm Road season will mark the ensemble's second tour with the program—previously, the Ryan Cohan Quartet toured Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Jordan.

Ryan Cohan (piano), Chicago, Illinois resident, has led the Ryan Cohan Trio, Quartet, and Sextet since 1994. National and international club and festival appearances have included The Calgary Jazz Festival, Symphony Center, Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola*, The Green Mill, The Jazz Showcase, Catalinas and others. He has performed with many jazz luminaries, including Freddie Hubbard, Milt Hinton, Curtis Fuller, Jon Faddis, Paquito D'Rivera, Kurt Elling and Joe Locke. As an educator, Cohan is the Assistant Director of large and small jazz ensembles at the University of Illinois at Chicago and he has been a faculty member of the Skidmore Jazz Institute. Cohan twice received the New Works Award (2008, 2005) and the Encore Award in 2008 from Chamber Music America for his compositional work. He penned the theme for Ramsey Lewis's PBS TV series, "The Legends Of Jazz," and has also scored music for film. Cohan attended DePaul University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in jazz performance.

Geof Bradfield (saxophone) has a diverse array of jazz teaching, recording and performance expertise. Bradfield has toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe, including appearances at the Chicago Jazz Festival, South by Southwest, Jazz in Nice and the Vienne Jazz Festival. A seasoned educator, Bradfield is a Columbia College faculty member in Chicago. He has also instructed at Washington State University, Whitworth College, the University of Idaho and Concordia College. Bradfield graduated with a master's degree in jazz reeds from the California Institute of the Arts and he earned his BMA from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois.

Lorin Cohen (bass), a Chicago native, is fluent in a variety of jazz, Latin and popular music styles. He has toured around the world to destinations including in Africa, Jordan, Rwanda and Southeast Asia. In addition, Cohen has toured Europe and Canada with Monty Alexander. Lorin is a recipient of the 2006 Community Arts

Assistance Program Grant from the City of Chicago and the Illinois Arts Council. He is currently based in Chicago.

Kobie Watkins (drums and percussion), a Chicago native, has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to jazz music and education. He has performed with several distinguished artists in the United States, including Sonny Rollins, Curtis Fuller and Arturo Sandoval. In 2007, Watkins recorded *Song and Dance & The Way I Play with Bobby Broom*, as well as *One Sky* with Ryan Cohan. In addition, Watkins has taught at Chicago State University and Northwestern University. He has acted as a Ravinia Mentor for the Chicago Public School Jazz Scholars. Watkins earned a master's degree in Jazz Pedagogy from Northwestern University, as well as bachelors in music education from VanderCook College of Music.

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Jazz at Lincoln Center

Jazz at Lincoln Center is dedicated to inspiring and growing audiences for jazz. With the world-renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and a comprehensive array of guest artists, Jazz at Lincoln Center advances a unique vision for the continued development of the art of jazz by producing a year-round schedule of performance, education and broadcast events for audiences of all ages. These productions include concerts, national and international tours, residencies, yearly hall of fame inductions, weekly national radio and television programs, recordings, publications, an annual high school jazz band competition and festival, a band director academy, jazz appreciation curriculum for students, music publishing, children's concerts, lectures, adult education courses, student and educator workshops and interactive websites. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis, Chairman Lisa Schiff and Executive Director, Adrian Ellis, Jazz at Lincoln Center will produce nearly 3,000 events during its 2008-09 season in its home in New York City, Frederick P. Rose Hall and around the world. For more information, visit www.jalc.org.

U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through international educational and exchange programs. Through its Cultural Programs Division, the Bureau supports a variety of cultural exchanges programs that support U.S. foreign policy, foster America's artistic excellence, and demonstrate America's respect and appreciation for other cultures and traditions. The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad program presents selected professional American performers of jazz and urban music on concert tours in countries with limited exposure to live American culture.

For more information, visit

<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/citizens/culture/index.htm>.

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