

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:      MARCH 31, 2010**



**THE 2010 RHYTHM ROAD: AMERICAN MUSIC ABROAD  
PROGRAM ANNOUNCES THE STUDENT LOAN TOUR DATES  
THE STUDENT LOAN CHOSEN FOR SOUTH AMERICAN TOUR TO PROMOTE  
CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

**[For High Resolution Photos](#)**

**Who/What:**

Jazz at Lincoln Center and the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs announced that The Student Loan will tour to the South America with *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* program. The bluegrass quartet from Portland, Oregon, was selected from a pool of 132 applicants to travel abroad and promote cross-cultural understanding. International tour activities will include public concerts, master classes, lecture-demonstrations, workshops, jam sessions, collaborations with local musicians and media outreach.

As part of *The Rhythm Road*, The Student Loan will also perform two concerts in the United States. In Washington, D.C., the National Geographic Society will present the first concert on June 17, 2010 at 7:15pm at the Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW. The second concert will be presented by Jazz at Lincoln Center on June 19, 2010 at 2:30pm at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

**Where/When:**

The Student Loan will tour to Argentina (March 30-April 4), Paraguay (April 5-8), Bolivia (April 9-13), Dominican Republic (April 14-20) and Colombia (April 21-27).

*\*Dates and locations subject to change*

**U.S. Concert Dates:**

- Washington, D.C.: June 17, 2010 at 7:15pm at the Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW
- New York City: June 19, 2010 at 2:30pm at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola at Frederick

P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center

**How:**

For more information visit *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* at [jalc.org/TheRoad](http://jalc.org/TheRoad), now with additional elements including featured countries, bands, stories from the road, and more.

**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.

Jazz at Lincoln Center proudly acknowledges *National Geographic Live* as the Washington, D.C. concert series partner. WPFW-FM is the media sponsor for this series.

**For more information:**

Anna Kukowski, Burson-Marsteller for Jazz at Lincoln Center 212-614-4560, [anna.kukowski@bm.com](mailto:anna.kukowski@bm.com).

David C. Grier, U.S. Department of State, 202-632-9366, [grierdc@state.gov](mailto:grierdc@state.gov).

Catherine Stearns, U.S. Department of State, 202-632-6437, [stearnscl@state.gov](mailto:stearnscl@state.gov).

- - -

**The Student Loan (Portland, OR)** brings a fresh voice to the world of American folk music. With a sound both familiar and innovative, this progressive bluegrass quartet incorporates jazz, rock, jam, and classical styles, reaching new musical heights through original songwriting and methods. Since their formation in 2005, The Student Loan has been testing audiences' perceptions of bluegrass and newgrass music, with a unique sound that defies genre distinctions. Better described as an acoustic jam band, The Student Loan delivers high energy performances leaving the audiences singing and dancing. Notable performances include Java Jazz Festival in 2009, Appalachian Uprising Bluegrass Festival in 2008 and Black Swamp Arts Festival in 2007. In 2009, the ensemble toured with *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* in Southeast Asia and with the State Department's Musical Overtures program in the Middle East and the Mediterranean.

**Liz Chibucos (guitar, violin and vocals)**, born in DeKalb, Illinois, was classically trained on piano at a young age. Chibucos' contributions to The Student Loan include performance on guitar, violin and vocals. She has also written several songs for the band, including "Don't Bring Me Down" from the band's debut album, *Wake Up to The Student Loan*, and "Insomnia" off of its sophomore release, *A New and Different Life*. Chibucos attended Bowling Green State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in world music with a special emphasis on American music.

**Mark Gerolami (banjo, guitar and vocals)**, raised in Bloomfield, New York, was exposed to a broad range of musical styles early in life. Performance credits include working with Bowling Green State University Afro-Caribbean Dance Ensemble, and the Balinese Gamelan Ensemble, the Crane School of Music Symphonic Band, Concert Band and Jazz Band, jazz trio Avogadro and the Moles, and folk music group Norton and the Anthologies. Gerolami has travelled to Ghana where he studied traditional West African drumming and dance. He received bachelor's degrees in

music education and history from S.U.N.Y. Potsdam, and he completed a master's degree in ethnomusicology at Bowling Green State University focusing research on issues of class and music.

**Sam Howard (bass)** is a bass player and composer. Originally from Wyoming, he often travels the country, playing with and learning from local musicians. He began playing classical double bass and electric bass at age 12. While attending the University of Miami, he played in many groups and performed and toured with the original funk/rock/fusion group Active Ingredients. In 2004, Howard moved to New York City where he became part of the vibrant New York City music scene working with a variety of musicians including guitarist Woody Quinn and drummer Russ Kleiner. Since relocating to Portland, Oregon he has continued to focus on composing and playing great music.

**Chad Kimbler (mandolin and vocals)** was born and raised in West Virginia. Around the age of ten and influenced by a wide range of musical styles, Kimbler started composing music for both garage bands and classical ensembles. As he was studying music, he began to mix elements of his youth: the details of classical music, the speed and power of heavy metal, and the improvised openness of jazz and jam bands. Today, Kimbler composes music in both classical and popular styles. Kimbler has received two degrees in music composition, a bachelor's degree from West Virginia University, and a master's degree from Bowling Green State University.

- - -

**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, a jazz hall of fame and concert series, weekly national radio programs, television broadcasts, 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 and classes, 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 thousands of events each season in its home in New York City, Frederick P. Rose Hall, and around the world. For more information, visit [jalc.org](http://jalc.org)

**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 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 on concert tours in countries with limited exposure to live American culture. For more information, visit [exchanges.state.gov/cultural/rhythm.html](http://exchanges.state.gov/cultural/rhythm.html).

# # #