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[The Rhythm Road Program Bands](#)

The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad Presents
**10 FREE CONCERTS IN
NEW YORK CITY & WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Who/What:

Jazz at Lincoln Center and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announced today the dates of 10 free concerts in the United States featuring the American music ensembles selected to participate in the 2011-12 Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad program. Featured bands include:

- Ari Roland Jazz Quartet (New York, jazz)
- Dennis Luxion/ Michael Raynor Quartet (Illinois, jazz)
- The Earth String Band (Massachusetts, bluegrass)
- Jed Levy Quartet (New York, jazz)
- Kate McGarry Quartet (New York, jazz)
- Legacy (New Jersey, urban/hip hop)
- The Melvin Williams Group (Mississippi, gospel)
- Mountain Quickstep (New York, bluegrass)
- Oscar Williams jr. and the Band of Life (Missouri, gospel)
- Paul Beaudry & Pathways (New York, jazz)

Selected for their musical ability, artistry, and educational skills, these 10 ensembles will tour internationally with The Rhythm Road program to share their music with the world with the aim of cultural exchange. International tour activities will include public concerts, master classes, lecture-demonstrations, workshops, jam sessions, collaborations with local musicians, and media outreach. Since 2005, 180 musicians from 46 ensembles have toured with the program, visiting over 100 countries on five continents.

When/Where:

Free concerts at **Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola**, Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center, September 10, 2011-March 10, 2012, in New York City: Broadway at 60th Street, 5th floor.

Place	Date	Time	Ensemble
NYC	September 10, 2011	12:30pm	Kate McGarry Quartet
NYC	September 10, 2011	2:30pm	Oscar Williams jr. and the Band of Life
NYC	December 3, 2011	12:30pm	The Melvin Williams Group

NYC	December 3, 2011	2:30pm	Paul Beaudry & Pathways
NYC	February 11, 2012	12:30pm	Ari Roland Jazz Quartet
NYC	February 11, 2012	2:30pm	Mountain Quickstep
NYC	February 25, 2012	12:30pm	Dennis Luxion/Michael Raynor Quartet
NYC	February 25, 2012	2:30pm	Legacy
NYC	March 10, 2012	12:30pm	Jed Levy Quartet
NYC	March 10, 2012	2:30pm	The Earth String Band

In Washington D.C., presented by **National Geographic Society**, September 8, 2011 – March 8, 2012: *at the Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW.*

Place	Date	Time	Ensemble
D.C.	September 8, 2011*	6pm	Kate McGarry Quartet
D.C.	September 8, 2011*	7:15pm	Oscar Williams jr. and the Band of Life
D.C.	December 1, 2011	6pm	Paul Beaudry & Pathways
D.C.	December 1, 2011	7:15pm	The Melvin Williams Group
D.C.	February 9, 2012	6pm	Ari Roland Jazz Quartet
D.C.	February 9, 2012	7:15pm	Mountain Quickstep
D.C.	February 23, 2012*	6pm	Dennis Luxion/Michael Raynor Quartet
D.C.	February 23, 2012*	7:15pm	Legacy
D.C.	March 8, 2012	6pm	Jed Levy Quartet
D.C.	March 8, 2012	7:15pm	The Earth String Band

*Note, performances on September 8 will be outdoors, performances on February 23 will be designed with opportunities for the audience to dance.

How:

Concerts are free and seating is open to the public on a first come, first served basis.

For more information visit *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* at jalc.org/TheRoad, and exchanges.state.gov/cultural/rhythm.html, which include 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 DC concert series partner.

WPFW-FM is the media sponsor for this series.

Contact:

Anna Kukowski, Burson-Marsteller for Jazz at Lincoln Center, 212-614-4560, anna.kukowski@bm.com.

Talley Sergent, U.S. Department of State, 202-632-6043, SergentRT@state.gov.

Biographies:

Ari Roland Jazz Quartet (New York, New York), is inspired by jazz music from the 1930's through 1950's, also known as the "Golden Age of Jazz." The ensemble's repertoire includes pieces by jazz legends such as Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, and

Billie Holiday as well as their own critically acclaimed original compositions. In addition to their performances in New York the quartet has a busy touring schedule. They also direct international programs bringing young musicians from different communities together to play jazz.

The Dennis Luxion / Michael Raynor Quartet (Chicago, Illinois) plays original, hard-swinging jazz. The group came together to create music that encompasses a wide range of styles based on the jazz tradition. The legacy of the legendary Chicago-based tenor saxophonist, Von Freeman, is especially influential on the ensemble's expressive style of improvisation. From introspective solo explorations to a powerful group dynamic, The Dennis Luxion / Michael Raynor Quartet's performances encompass the breadth of human expression. Sharing music with a broad range of audiences and collaborating with local musicians during travels fosters the group's sense of inspiration.

The Earth String Band (Boston, Massachusetts) combines bluegrass and contemporary acoustic music with soulful songwriting and musicianship. Fiery and improvisational, The Earth String Band creates pulsing earthy rhythms and melodious hooks that form a unique, infective vibe. The group's musical influences include the John Hartford String Band, The Stanley Brothers, Bill Monroe, and Jimmy Martin. The Earth String Band aims to spread the message of cultural harmony through pounding grooves that transcend boundaries and speak to all generations.

Jed Levy Quartet (New York, New York) explores a wide variety of approaches to the modern jazz idiom based on each band member's unique professional experiences. The quartet was formed two years ago in New York City as four friends with a common musical aesthetic, and it developed a colorful, melodic, rhythmically compelling, and uniquely American perspective on music. The group exhibits a historically-informed contemporary sound which focuses on the leaders' diverse repertoire of over 300 original compositions as well as their arrangements of standards from jazz literature.

Kate McGarry Quartet (Durham, North Carolina) is a bold and cohesive jazz group that embraces the freedom of the jazz tradition while pointing the genre towards a future as fresh and thrilling as its past. Having worked together for years in New York City jazz clubs, the Kate McGarry Quartet's sound is inspired by great jazz singers and instrumentalists, delta blues artists, and Brazilian music, as well as Kate McGarry's GRAMMY® Award nominated original compositions.

Legacy (East Orange, New Jersey) creates music about faith, love, struggle, and the pursuit of beauty in life and art. Legacy's alternative hip hop sound is influenced by various genres of music including West African percussive music, house, jazz, and break-beat. Combining unique talents and broad experiences, Legacy breaks language and cultural barriers through music.

The Melvin Williams Group (Smithdale, Mississippi) creates a raw and high-energy sound that is uplifting and inspiring. GRAMMY® Award nominee Melvin Williams, and his group bridge the gap between traditional and contemporary gospel music. This ensemble infuses its music with gospel, soul, jazz, hip hop, and classical selections. The Melvin Williams Group delivers emotion filled performances in all of its shows.

The group is inspired by the opportunity to share its passion for traditional gospel and other music to all audiences.

Mountain Quickstep (Beacon, New York), combines elements from the old-time, bluegrass, and early country music of the Adirondack, Appalachian, and Smoky Mountain regions of the United States. For over 13 years, Mountain Quickstep has brought lively fiddle tunes, lonesome folksongs, and fancy footwork to audiences from New England to Texas and abroad. The toe-tapping instrumental and vocal harmony with French Canadian and Celtic influences showcases the diversity of rural American music. The opportunity to experience new cultures, hear traditional music from around the globe, and share its own music has inspired Mountain Quickstep to travel with The Rhythm Road.

Oscar Williams jr. and the Band of Life (Saint Louis, MO) is an award-winning gospel ensemble with a spiritually refreshing sound that uplifts and intrigues audiences worldwide. The group combines an array of talents and styles which converge into a cutting edge melodic sound. Members of this ensemble have performed at the Vatican for the Pope, toured with international pop star Elisa, and performed with GRAMMY® winner Jason Mraz. Oscar Williams jr. and the Band of Life has also toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe including performances in Switzerland, Italy, and Germany, and most recently in the Czech Republic. In 2010, the group toured Eastern Europe and the Middle East with The Rhythm Road.

Paul Beaudry & Pathways (New York, New York) is deeply rooted in the jazz and blues traditions. Founded in 2008, Paul Beaudry & Pathways balances original compositions and arrangements with selected standards from jazz's broad stylistic range. The group's music is captivating and engaging, featuring exciting rhythms and swinging, soul-stirring melodies. Each musician's distinctive background and personal experience influence Paul Beaudry & Pathways, in addition to the inspiring musicianship of Dizzy Gillespie, Tony Williams, Herbie Hancock, and Sam Jones, among others. Rousing scat singing, fiery instrumental improvisations, and lively vocal exchanges are par for the course at the group's dynamic performances. Paul Beaudry & Pathways released its debut album in 2010. The group participated in The Rhythm Road in 2010 and traveled to South America.

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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, weekly national radio 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 produces 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

U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through a wide range of academic, cultural, private sector, professional, and sports exchange programs. Through its [Cultural Programs Division](#), the Bureau supports 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.

National Geographic Live is the public programming division of the National Geographic Society, which presents branded events including live concerts, films and dynamic presentations by today's leading explorers, scientists, filmmakers and photographers covering a wide range of topics. The National Geographic Society is one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations. Founded in 1888 to "increase and diffuse geographic knowledge," the Society works to inspire people to care about the planet. National Geographic reflects the world through its magazines, television programs, films, music and radio, books, DVDs, maps, exhibitions, live events, school publishing programs, interactive media and merchandise. National Geographic magazine, the Society's official journal, published in English and 32 local-language editions, is read by more than 35 million people each month. The National Geographic Channel reaches 310 million households in 34 languages in 165 countries. National Geographic Digital Media receives more than 13 million visitors a month. National Geographic has funded more than 9,200 scientific research, conservation and exploration projects and supports an education program promoting geography literacy.

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