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[The Rhythm Road Program
Bands](#)**



***THE RHYTHM ROAD: AMERICAN MUSIC ABROAD PROGRAM
ANNOUNCES
JED LEVY QUARTET TOUR DATES
JAZZ ENSEMBLE TO TRAVEL TO SOUTH AMERICA
TO PROMOTE CULTURAL EXCHANGE***

Who/What:

Jazz at Lincoln Center and the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announced today Jed Levy Quartet will tour Panama, Haiti, Mexico, Venezuela and Peru with *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* program. The Jazz group from New York City was selected from applications by more than 100 ensembles to travel abroad and encourage mutual respect and understanding. International tour activities will include public concerts, master classes, lecture-demonstrations, workshops, jam sessions, collaborations with local musicians, and media outreach. Since 2005, 172 musicians from 44 ensembles have toured with the program, visiting over 110 countries on five continents.

As part of *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* program, Jed Levy Quartet will also perform two concerts in the United States. In Washington, D.C., National Geographic Live! will present the first concert on March 8, 2012 at 6:00pm at the Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW. Jazz at Lincoln Center will present the second concert in New York City on March 10, 2012 at 12:30pm at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Where/When:

Jed Levy Quartet will tour Panama (Jan.18 – 21), Haiti (Jan. 22 – 28), Mexico (Jan. 29 – Feb. 3), Venezuela (Feb. 4 – Feb. 8) and Peru (Feb. 9 – 13).

**Dates and locations subject to change*

U.S. Concert Dates:

- Washington, D.C.: March 8, 2012 at 6:00pm at the Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW
- New York City: March 10, 2012 at 12:30pm 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, and exchanges.state.gov/cultural/rhythm.html, which include featured countries, bands, stories from the road, and more.

For more information:

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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.

Jed Levy (Saxophone and Flute) has been a mainstay on the New York jazz scene for over 20 years. Citing diversity as his key to success, Levy has performed with various groups including the Cab Calloway Orchestra, Mike Clark/ Charlie Hunter Group, Jaki Byard, and Chico O'Farrill Afro-Cuban Orchestra. While his sound encompasses music of earlier generations as well as bebop and hard-bop styles, Levy's original compositions look toward the future. Levy's new release, *One Night at the Kitano*, his sixth for the Steeplechase label, has garnered critical acclaim. As a composer, Levy's music has been recorded by Ron McClure, The Headhunters, Eddie Henderson, Don Friedman, and Mike Clark.

Alvester Garnett (Drums) creates music that is joyful and spiritual. Garnett, a native of Richmond, Virginia, learned the craft of percussion from his mentor Ellis Marsalis. After moving to New York City, Garnett worked with various legendary artists including Betty Carter and Abbey Lincoln. As one of the most in-demand and versatile drummers in New York, Garnett has covered a broad spectrum of styles and approaches in modern jazz. He is also an active jazz educator at various clinics and festivals around the country and is involved with the mentoring program "Allstars."

Thomson Kneeland (Bass) has established himself as a sideman and leader after moving to New York City in 2003. Though primarily rooted in the jazz tradition, Kneeland's unique sound and rhythmic voice is drawn from a variety of musical interests, from the European classical tradition to Indian Karnatic music. In the past decade, Kneeland has released five albums, composed music for jazz and classical ensembles, and performed at numerous international venues.

Misha Tsiganov (Piano) was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, and moved to Boston after receiving an invitation to study at the Berklee College of Music. After graduating in 1993, he moved to New York where he currently resides. Tsiganov's familiarity with jazz, Brazilian, and Afro-Cuban music makes him an asset to many projects. He has recorded an album with his brother as well as two additional albums on his own. Tsiganov is the featured pianist on the television cartoon series "Little Bill" and has taught jazz at the St. Petersburg Music College and continues to be an active educator.

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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, 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 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. The Bureau's cultural exchanges 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.

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