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For photos, go to:

http://www.jalc.org/TheRoad_noFl/press_pix.html



Devin Phillips (c), Democratic Republic of the Congo, December 2007
Devin Phillips & New Orleans Straight Ahead
Photograph courtesy of Eric Gruber

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER LAUNCHES FOURTH YEAR OF RHYTHM ROAD: AMERICAN MUSIC ABROAD TOURS

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR AUDITIONS NOW

WHO/WHAT:

Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC) and The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs are pleased to collaborate once again on *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* . JALC is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 program. American music groups from throughout the United States specializing in jazz, urban/hip hop and other American roots music including bluegrass,

blues, Cajun, country, gospel and zydeco are invited to apply for the opportunity to travel abroad, particularly to countries not regularly visited by American musicians, to increase cross-cultural understanding.

WHEN:

September 15, 2008 – Application deadline

October 7, 2008 – Selected ensembles invited to live auditions in
New York City

October 26 & 27, 2008 – Auditions

November 4, 2008 – Announcement of finalist ensembles for 2008-
2009 Rhythm Road tours

January-June 2009 – Tours

WHERE:

Applications for the 2008-2009 tours are available:

http://www.jalc.org/TheRoad_noFI/formusicians2.html. Musicians
inquiring about applications can call 212-258-9899 or email:
amap@jalc.org.

HOW:

Please visit **The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad** at
www.jalc.org/TheRoad for more information. In addition, you can listen
to music and stories about the program for free 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>

BACKGROUND:

JALC and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs co-produce an annual series of international tours for ten jazz, urban and American roots music ensembles to regions including Africa, Asia, the Balkans, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. International tour activities include public concerts, master classes, lecture-demonstrations, workshops, jam sessions, media outreach and collaborations with local musicians. The program also incorporates free performances by each group hosted by Jazz at Lincoln Center at Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* at Frederick P. Rose Hall, Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York, and at The National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. Over the past three years, 108 musicians from 28 ensembles have toured with the program, visiting 89 different countries on 5 continents.

QUOTES:

"Cultural diplomacy allows artists and audiences to share in a common experience that reaches beyond differences in culture, religion, language and generations and to connect as people without borders,"

said Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Professional and Cultural Exchanges Alina L. Romanowski.

“In the historic tradition of such musical alumni as Armstrong, Ellington, and Gillespie, these tours focus on diverse geographic audiences and the dynamic interaction born of music. The emphasis on education as well as performance leads to powerful exchange for our audiences and musicians alike,” said Susan John, Director of Touring for Jazz at Lincoln Center.

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About 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 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. Please visit our website at www.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 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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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.

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