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**THE 2009 RHYTHM ROAD: AMERICAN MUSIC ABROAD
PROGRAM ANNOUNCES DUENDE QUARTET TOUR DATES
DUENDE QUARTET CHOSEN FOR SOUTH ASIA TOUR
TO ADVANCE CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

For High Res photos: http://jalco.org/TheRoad_noFI/embassy.html#duende

Who/What:

Jazz at Lincoln Center and the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs announced Duende Quartet will tour South Asia with **The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad** program. The jazz quartet from Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland 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:

Duende Quartet will tour India (March 4-13), Bangladesh (March 14-19), Philippines (March 20-24) and Taiwan (March 25-30).

**Dates and locations subject to change*

How:

For more information visit **The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad** at www.jalco.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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Duende Quartet

Washington, D.C. / Baltimore, Maryland

DUENDE QUARTET, an ensemble devoted to playing Latin jazz, draws inspiration from the concept behind its name. *Duende*, literally meaning goblin or imp, has been used to describe jazz's subtle, emotional power. Kenneth Tynan, one of several writers using the term to describe the understated music of jazz pioneer Miles Davis, defined *duende* as "...the ability to transmit a profoundly felt emotion with the minimum of fuss and the maximum of restraint." Inspired by such qualities, the Duende Quartet crafts a unique Latin jazz sound in the styles of Mongo Santamaria, Cal Tjader and Willie Bobo as well as Blue Note Records' legendary 1960s sound. In a unique small group setting—with piano, bass and two hand percussionists—the ensemble captures the vibe of the jazz combo while using the rhythms of a Cuban *conjunto*. Its repertoire ranges from traditional Cuban songs to arrangements of jazz standards—all pieces strike a balance between danceable groove and effortless improvisation.

Duende Quartet, based in the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland areas, was formed in 2004. The group toured Turkey, Albania, Cyprus and Bosnia in February 2007 as part of The Rhythm Road. Band members have played together in many settings, including with Palmetto recording artists Rumba Club.

Harry Appelman (piano) has performed on five continents including notable stops in Egypt in February 2008 with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra as well as a U.S. State Department tour of the South and Central Americas in 2002. In addition, Appelman has toured with the Woody Herman Orchestra and the Artie Shaw Orchestra. Appelman is also a member of the Latin Jazz group Afro Bop Alliance—winners of a 2008 Latin GRAMMY®—and he plays frequently with Palmetto recording artists Rumba Club. Appelman graduated from the New England Conservatory with a master's degree in music and from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree.

Mark Merella (percussion) is a seasoned jazz professional—his career spans over 25 years and covers a wide range of styles. Merella has performed with Fred Foss, Rene Mclean, Tom Williams, Eva Cassidy, Mary Wilson and percussionist Steve Berrios, co-founder of the Fort Apache Band. Merella has played at numerous international embassies as well as the White House and the Kennedy Center. A career highlight includes playing with the Latin Jazz All Stars alongside Steve Turre, Ray Vega and Andy Gonzalez. His educational experience includes residencies, workshops, private lessons and recording for the Warner Bros. band method series, which is used in high schools across the country.

Josh Schwartzman (bass) has participated extensively in the East Coast Latin and jazz scenes in America. Schwartzman is best known as founder, bassist and contributing arranger and composer for Rumba Club since the renowned group's inception 22 years ago. He has performed in Washington D.C. area musical theater—most recently appearing in the 2008 Israeli operetta "David in Shadow and Light." Schwartzman has studied at Towson University, the Creative Music Studio and

the Peabody Institute of Music.

Sam “Seguito” Turner (percussion) is best known for his 15-year long tenure as sideman with Lionel Hampton. He has also worked nationally and internationally with Machito, Frank Sinatra, James Brown, Charles Mingus, Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, Garth Fagen Dance Theater, Dexter Gordon, Freddie Hubbard, Randy Weston, Don Pullen and others. Turner is a recipient of the United Nations Peace Award. Residing in Washington, D.C., Turner performs with Rumba Club, works with the Prince George’s Arts Council teaching and performing in schools and serves as a resident adjunct professor at Towson University.

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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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