

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:      SEPTEMBER 15, 2010**



**THE 2010 RHYTHM ROAD: AMERICAN MUSIC ABROAD  
PROGRAM ANNOUNCES  
TURNING POINTE TOUR DATES  
*TURNING POINTE CHOSEN FOR WEST AFRICA 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 Turning Pointe will tour West Africa with *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* program. The gospel group from Atlanta, Georgia, 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*, Turning Pointe will also perform two concerts in the United States. In Washington, D.C., the National Geographic Society will present the first concert on November 4, 2010 at 7:15pm at the Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW. The second concert will be presented by Jazz at Lincoln Center on November 6, 2010 at 2:30pm at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

**Where/When:**

Turning Pointe will tour to Ghana (September 28 - October 4), Liberia (October 5 - 8), Guinea (October 10 - 14) Republic of Congo Brazza (October 15 - 20), Equatorial Guinea (October 21 - 24), Nigeria (October 25 - 29).

*\*Dates and locations subject to change*

U.S. Concert Dates:

- Washington, D.C.: November 4, 2010 at 7:15pm at the Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW
- New York City: November 6, 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:**

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**Turning Pointe** is a contemporary gospel quartet that unites four talented artists with soulful voices and a passion for music. Turning Pointe's eclectic sound bridges the divide between old and new, while preserving gospel's messages of love, faith, and hope. With a focus on collaboration and conversation, Turning Pointe provides international audiences the insight, experience, and spirituality of the gospel genre. Individually and collectively, Turning Pointe members have performed at numerous venues and churches in the greater Atlanta area, including The Dream Center Church, C-Room, and Apache Cafe. Together, the members of Turning Pointe endeavor to change the world one song at a time, and to encourage and uplift audiences worldwide.

**Mark Patterson (vocals)** has a smooth vocal style that blends traditional gospel with contemporary Christian flavors. A New Jersey native re-located to Atlanta, Georgia, Patterson grew up in a musical family that supported his talent at an early age. When not on tour, Patterson leads praise and worship at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church and records with Turning Pointe. In addition, he was afforded the opportunity to co-write the song, "Power in Praise" to be released on the first live album for gospel artist/worship leader Darwin Hobbs. He has studied at Lee University, and now studies at Full Sail University via Distance Learning. Patterson recently competed with the Voices of Lee on NBC's hit show "The Sing-Off," where the group placed in the top three.

**Tamara Coleman (vocals)**, a songwriter, worshipper, and psalmist, writes poetic lyrics and inspirational harmonies. A member of New Birth Baptist Church and student at Georgia State University, Coleman sings in both classical and gospel styles. Her

influences include Kierra Sheard, Kim Burrell, Ray Charles, Michael Jackson, and India Arie. Through her music, Coleman reaches a wide audience, while focusing on inspiring and encouraging today's youth. Coleman has sung background for Mariah Carey in concert at the Phillips Arena and for Nas at the BET Hip Hop Awards.

**Sanchez Dixon (piano)** hails from Atlanta, Georgia. In addition to playing piano and organ, Dixon's credits include composing, directing, scoring musicals, and producing music. Dixon's uplifting and healing musical style is rooted in gospel and jazz. He is inspired by artists such as Oscar Peterson, Chick Corea, Count Basie, J.S. Bach, and Aaron Lindsey. His experience also included standout performances with Sha Simpson, Sonia Puppillo, and William Murphy. Dixon has worked on musical productions such as, "Crowns" which premiered at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Dixon will complete his studies in music technology and jazz at Georgia State University in the spring of 2011.

**Priestly Stephenson (vocals)**, a native of Columbia, South Carolina who has relocated to Atlanta, Georgia, sang her first solo in church at the age of six and has been singing ever since. She has worked with several gospel recording artists including Darwin Hobbs, Kirk Franklin, and Dottie Peoples. In high school, she starred as Dorothy in "The Wiz," and later landed a spot singing behind the rapper Nas at the BET Hip Hop Awards. She recently sang background for the stage play "Mama's Prayer" at the Rialto Center for the Arts.

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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 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 a wide range of academic, cultural, 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](http://exchanges.state.gov/cultural/rhythm.html).

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