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



***THE RHYTHM ROAD: AMERICAN MUSIC ABROAD PROGRAM  
ANNOUNCES***

***THE EARTH STRING BAND TOUR DATES***

***BLUEGRASS ENSEMBLE TO TRAVEL TO ASIA  
TO PROMOTE CULTURAL EXCHANGE***

**Who/What:**

**Jazz at Lincoln Center** and the **U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs** announced today The Earth String Band will tour Laos, Thailand, Burma, Timor Leste, and South Korea with ***The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad*** program. The bluegrass group from Boston, Massachusetts, 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, 155 musicians from 40 ensembles have toured with the program, visiting over 100 countries on five continents.

As part of *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* program, The Earth String Band will also perform two concerts in the United States. In Washington, D.C., the National Geographic Society will present the first concert on March 8, 2012 at 7:15pm at the Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW. The second concert will be presented by Jazz at Lincoln Center on March 10, 2012 at 2:30pm at Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

**Where/When:**

The Earth String Band will tour Laos (September 10-14), Thailand (September 15-20), Burma (September 21-25), Timor Leste (September 27-30), and South Korea (October 2-9).

*\*Dates and locations subject to change*

**U.S. Concert Dates:**

- Washington, D.C.: March 8, 2012 at 7:15pm at the Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW
- New York City: March 10, 2012 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), and [exchanges.state.gov/cultural/rhythm.html](http://exchanges.state.gov/cultural/rhythm.html), which include featured countries, bands, stories from the road, and more.

**For more information:**

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**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.

**Stash Wyslouch** (Acoustic Guitar) studied at the Berklee College of Music where he majored in acoustic guitar performance and immersed himself in the bluegrass community. After graduating from Berklee in 2010, Wyslouch joined a variety of different bands and toured internationally with the Boston Boys, Blue Moose and the Unbuttoned Zippers, and The Earth String Band. Wyslouch brings a quirky edge to these groups, with his driving rhythm guitar and deliberate leads, as well as his love of American acoustic music and appreciation for contemporary heavy metal.

**Sam Grisman** (Bass) is the son of renowned mandolin player David Grisman. From an early age, Grisman was exposed to his father's eclectic musical tastes and was surrounded by legendary musicians such as Edgar Meyer, Martin Taylor, Ralph Stanley, and Del McCoury. At 12, he began to play professionally with his father's band David Grisman Bluegrass Experience. After studying for two semesters at the Berklee College of Music, Grisman became a full time bass player and teacher. In addition to touring with The David Grisman Bluegrass Experience, Sarah Jarosz, The Boston Boys, and The Deadly Gentlemen, he has recently been on the road with Darol Anger's Republic of Strings, and Bearfoot.

**Andy Reiner** (Fiddle and Violin) graduated from the Berklee College of Music in 2008. He learned to play the fiddle from his father Dave Reiner, a fiddle contest champion and author. He has played with a variety of musical groups including his family's Reiner Family Band, heavy metal group Devil in the Kitchen, folk/ hip hop band FiddleFoxx, and several string bands, The Earth String Band, Blue Moose and the Unbuttoned Zippers. Reiner has composed five major works for string orchestra that have been performed at the Berklee Performance Center and the Kennedy Center. Last year, Reiner published a book of 54 original compositions for fiddle/violin, and he is currently working on a new fiddle instruction book with his father.

**Eric Robertson** (Mandolin) attended high school at the Weaver Academy for the Performing and Visual Arts and is currently in his final year at the Berklee College of Music. At Berklee, he developed his passion for songwriting and mandolin playing, and in his explorations found connections between R&B and country music. Robertson's love of performing resulted in the formation of his band, The Boston Boys. In addition to touring internationally with newgrass band, Northern Lights, and progressive acoustic jazz sextet, Dr. Magpie, he collaborates with rising singer-songwriters Emily Elbert, Margaret Glaspy, and Jenna Belle. Robertson's debut album is entitled *Listen*.

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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](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, 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](http://exchanges.state.gov/cultural/rhythm.html).

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