

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:      NOVEMBER 7, 2011**

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



***THE RHYTHM ROAD: AMERICAN MUSIC ABROAD PROGRAM  
ANNOUNCES  
LEGACY TOUR DATES***

***Urban/Hip-Hop ENSEMBLE TO TRAVEL TO NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE  
EAST  
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 Legacy will tour Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Israel/Jerusalem, Egypt, South Sudan, and Kenya with *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* program. The Urban/Hip-Hop group from East Orange, New Jersey, 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, 159 musicians from 41 ensembles have toured with the program, visiting over 100 countries on five continents.

As part of *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* program, Legacy will also perform two concerts in the United States. In Washington, D.C., National Geographic Live! will present the first concert on February 23, 2012 at 7:15pm at the Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW. The second concert will be presented in New York City

by Jazz at Lincoln Center on February 25, 2012 at 2:30pm at Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

**Where/When:**

Legacy will tour Morocco (November 16-21), Algeria (November 21-26), Tunisia (November 26-30), Israel/ Jerusalem (November 30-December 6), Egypt (December 6-11), South Sudan (December 11-15) and Kenya (December 15-19).

*\*Dates and locations subject to change*

**U.S. Concert Dates:**

- Washington, D.C.: February 23, 2012 at 7:15pm at the Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW
- New York City: February 25, 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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**Legacy (East Orange, New Jersey)** creates music about faith, love, struggle, and the pursuit of beauty in life and art. Legacy's alternative hip hop sound is influenced by various genres of music including West African percussive music, house, jazz, and break-beat. Combining unique talents and broad experiences, Legacy breaks language and cultural barriers through music.

**Ihsan Muhammad (Vocals)** is a profound singer/songwriter, lyricist and poet. She incorporates a street-smart persona on stage, spreading her ideas of love and urban philosophy through her hip hop, soul, Senegalese, and R&B inspired vocals. Muhammad has opened for Isaac Hayes, India Arie, and Erykah Badu, among others. As a published poet, she has been featured in the Rap the Vote campaign, on the Oxygen Network, HBO, and on MTV produced programs. As an arts educator, Muhammad created *Word is Born*, a series of hip hop youth workshops that were conducted in public schools and universities. Also an eco-activist, she will soon embark on a bi-coastal tour to promote green sustainability and the New Green Economy to urban communities in America.

**Jeremy Clemons (Drums)** was born and grew up in St. Louis, Missouri. He attended North Carolina Central University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Jazz Studies, studying under Ira Wiggins, Arnold George, and Thomas Taylor. After graduation, Clemons returned to St. Louis, working the local music scene as a sideman and bandleader. From 2004 to 2006, Clemons toured all over the world with the Andy Bey Quartet. During this same period, he was also the drummer for electronic music guru, DJ Carl Craig. Clemons is currently co-leading the band Soul

Understated with award winning vocalist/composer, Mavis 'SWAN' Poole and he recently joined Legacy as the group's drummer.

**Ben Meigners** (Bass) was born in New York City. he attended Purchase College where he studied with the late Dennis Irwin. Meigners attended City College and The New School and was a semi-finalist in the Thelonious Monk Competition for bass in 2009. He performed in groups led by various artists including, Roy Hargrove, Saul Rubin, Billy Kaye, Charlie Persip, Freddie Redd, Andy Bey Kim Thompson, and many more. Meigners was recently featured on records including Fat Cat Big Band's trilogy *Angels Praying for Freedom, Meditation, and Face*, and Steve Blum's *Gottchalk's Last Dance*. Meigners is currently working on his debut record and is often heard at the west village jazz club Fat Cat.

**Yazid (Benu) Muhammad's** (Vocals) performance background ranges from hip hop lyricism to performance poetry and theater. As a student at Norfolk State University, Muhammad formed a hip hop group that went on to open for Leaders of The New School and front man Busta Rhymes, as well as Heavy D. He is known for his freestyle lyrical skills and unique brand of showmanship. In 2001, he co-wrote and performed in a two-man show *We Ain't From Around Here, Beats* and also co-wrote a book entitled *Reign of the World Warriors*. Muhammad is also a drama and performing arts teacher.

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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](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 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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