

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:      MARCH 4, 2010**



**THE 2010 RHYTHM ROAD: AMERICAN MUSIC ABROAD  
PROGRAM ANNOUNCES  
CHEN LO AND THE LIBERATION FAMILY TOUR DATES  
CHEN LO AND THE LIBERATION FAMILY CHOSEN FOR NORTH AFRICAN AND  
MIDDLE EASTERN 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 Chen Lo and the Liberation Family will tour to North Africa and the Middle East with *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* program. The hip hop ensemble from Brooklyn, NY 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*, Chen Lo and the Liberation Family will also perform two concerts in the United States. In Washington, D.C., the National Geographic Society will present the first concert on June 3, 2010 at 6pm at the Grosvenor

Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW. The second concert will be presented by Jazz at Lincoln Center on June 5, 2010 at 12noon at Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

**Where/When:**

Chen Lo and the Liberation Family will tour to Morocco (March 18-23), Tunisia (March 24-29) , Algeria (March 30-April 4), Jordan (April 5 - 11), Lebanon (April 12-16), Syria (April 17- 21).

*\*Dates and locations subject to change*

U.S. Concert Dates:

- Washington, D.C.: June 3, 2010 at 6pm at the Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW
- New York City: June 5, 2010 at 12 noon 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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**Chen Lo and the Liberation Family** is a unique phenomenon in the world of music. The distinctive sound of this dynamic collective draws from historic and contemporary events, simple elements of life, and a myriad of musical influences such as hip hop, jazz, blues, kwaito, soul, rock & roll, R&B, afro-beat, and pop. Chen Lo and Ken White combined forces in 2007 to create a hip hop ensemble that maintains the genre's core ingredients, while incorporating the texture of live instrumentation. Engaging, soulful, and thought-provoking, Chen Lo and the Liberation Family form a musical entity designed to fit any bill and perform to the highest of standards. Chen Lo and the Liberation Family have performed with Last Poets and CL Smooth and were presented at Crash Mansion, CMJ Music Festival, and on MTV.

**Chen Lo (vocals)** is an artist, humanitarian, teacher, writer, speaker, and entrepreneur with a passion for purposeful music and art. Lo's soulful hip hop blends various

sounds and influences to create a dynamic, musical, and highly-relevant product. His influences include Nas, Rakim, and Marvin Gaye. He has shared the stage with artists like K'naan, Erykah Badu, A Tribe Called Quest, The Roots, Common and KRS-ONE and has been featured on MTV and BET television networks. With roots in Los Angeles, California, Lo now lives in Brooklyn, New York, where he teaches a hip hop curriculum throughout New York City. He also traveled to Africa where he worked with AIDS awareness and leadership development programs. Chen Lo received a bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University and a graduate degree in music from New York University.

**BAASSIK (bass)** born and raised in New York, is a pioneering female bass player in hip hop. Her style is based in funk and old school R&B and incorporates elements of hip hop and rock. BAASSIK has performed with CL Smooth of Pete Rock & CL Smooth and played at various venues in New York City such as Sputnik, Joe's Pub, Bushbaby, and Bowery Poetry Café. BAASSIK's festival experience includes the International African Arts Festival in Brooklyn, New York, Weeksville Festival, and Make Music New York 2009, among others.

**DJ Scandales (turntablist/producer)** originally from Queens, New York, took up the art of DJ'ing at age 12. Through his devoted practice in the art of scratching, cutting, and beat juggling, Scandales developed a passion for various genres and styles of music, as well as a keen interest in the music business. His formless and free sound has roots in hip hop, R&B, soul, Caribbean, and Latin music. Scandales holds residencies on local radio shows and various clubs, and has worked with radio outlets such as 90.9 WONY, 90.9 WKRB, and Downshiftradio, as well as Chopper Dave (Element Skateboards), and cTurntableencies.com.

**Ken White (drums and electronic triggers)**, originally from Ontario, Canada has been playing drums and percussion for over two decades. A variety of musical flavors, including Cuban rumba, West African drumming, Indian classical music and bhangra, influence White's groove-based hip hop style. White has released a recording with his electro funk band, Comandante Zero which has performed in major venues in New York City as well as in London and Berlin. White holds a bachelor's degree in jazz performance from the New England Conservatory of Music and a master's degree from New York University where he studied the relationship between dance and music. White works as a teaching artist through LEAP, Learning through an Expanded Arts Program, where he designs and implements residencies in New York City public schools that use a hands-on arts approach to teaching academic subjects.

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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 international educational and exchange programs. Through its Cultural Programs Division, the Bureau supports a variety of 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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