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**THE 2010 RHYTHM ROAD: AMERICAN MUSIC ABROAD
PROGRAM ANNOUNCES
CHARLIE PORTER QUARTET TOUR DATES
CHARLIE PORTER QUARTET CHOSEN FOR SOUTH ASIA AND TURKEY TOUR TO
PROMOTE CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

[For High Res Photos](#)

Who/What:

Jazz at Lincoln Center and the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs announced that the Charlie Porter Quartet will tour South Asia and Turkey with *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* program. The jazz quartet, from New York City, 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*, Charlie Porter Quartet will also perform two concerts in the United States. In Washington, D.C., the National Geographic Society will present the first concert on June 17, 2010 at 6:00pm at the Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW. The second concert will be presented by Jazz at Lincoln Center on June 19, 2010 at 12:30pm at Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Where/When:

Charlie Porter Quartet will tour to India (May 19-May 29), Sri Lanka (May 30-June 4), Bangladesh (June 5-7), Turkey (June 8-15).

**Dates and locations subject to change*

U.S. Concert Dates:

- Washington, D.C.: June 17, 2010 at 6:00pm at the Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW
- New York City: June 19, 2010 at 12:30pm 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, 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.

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Charlie Porter Quartet has a fiery and intelligent approach to jazz that is both forward-thinking and steeped in tradition. Formed in 2005, the quartet interprets standards and original music with boundless creativity and imagination. Its governing elements and influences include expressive music that communicates with audiences, in addition to various aesthetic concepts found in visual art and dance. The legacy of such original jazz ambassadors as Louis Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie and their contributions to jazz music and cultural diplomacy are especially influential. Throughout their travels, they have gained experience in communicating their music to a wide variety of communities and fostering cultural exchange with local musicians and audiences.

Charlie Porter (trumpet) is a trumpeter and composer who has an all-encompassing approach to music that incorporates many genres. His sound is warm and evocative. He has worked with renowned musicians such as Paquito D’Rivera, Peter Erskine, and Joe Zawinul. Chamber Music America recently commissioned Porter to compose the “Buddy Bolden Suite” for his jazz septet. Porter came to New York City in 1996 to study at The Julliard School and continued his studies as a Fulbright Scholar at The Paris Conservatory and at the Manhattan School of Music where he received his master’s of music. Porter has traveled to Western Africa under the auspices of The Rhythm Road in 2007 with the Charlie Porter Quartet, and later performed with the Rhythm Road All-Star tour to India, China, and Mali.

Adam Birnbaum (piano) is emerging as one of the top young voices in jazz piano. Since arriving on the New York scene in 2003, he has worked with artists as diverse

as Greg Osby, Al Foster, and Wynton Marsalis, and has frequented jazz clubs such as the Village Vanguard and the Blue Note. Birnbaum studied music at the New England Conservatory of Music and The Julliard School, and received a bachelor's degree in computer science from Boston College. He has been a member of Greg Osby's ensemble since 2007 and toured internationally with the Al Foster Quartet since March 2009. He participated in a Rhythm Road tour to West Africa in 2007 with the Charlie Porter Quartet

Scott Ritchie (bass) lives in New York City. He has brought his strong, swinging, and subtle sound to venues throughout the United States and Europe. A versatile musician, Ritchie has performed with the Sarasota Opera Orchestra, Ebony Ensemble and Jazz Mandolin Project, among others. Ritchie attended the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music and completed graduate work at the University of Southern California.

Jon Wikan (drums) is a jazz drummer rapidly gaining acclaim on the international music scene. Originally from Petersburg, Alaska, Wikan brings his life experience to the bandstand. He produces modern, mainstream jazz that is energetic, dynamic, and swinging. His influences include Jimmy Cobb, Tony Williams, and Mel Lewis, and he has worked with Geoffrey Keezer's trio, the Mills Brothers, and The Maria Schneider Orchestra. Wikan is an active clinician/instructor who teaches at The New School and privately in Queens, New York.

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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

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.

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