

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 18, 2010

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Rhythm Road musician Charlie Porter has an impromptu lesson with a local musician, Bangladesh, June 2010.

**JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER NOW ACCEPTING
BAND APPLICATIONS TO TOUR WITH
THE RHYTHM ROAD: AMERICAN MUSIC ABROAD
AUDITIONS TO BE HELD IN NYC AND NEW ORLEANS**

Who/What:

Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC) and The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs are pleased to collaborate for a sixth year on ***The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad***. JALC is now accepting band applications for the 2010-11 season. American music quartets from throughout the United States specializing in jazz, urban/hip hop, bluegrass, blues, Cajun, country, gospel, and



zydeco are invited to apply for the opportunity to tour internationally and share their music with the world.

Auditions will be held in **New York City** at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center and, for the first time in the history of the program, in **New Orleans**. More information will be available in upcoming weeks at jalc.org/TheRoad.

When:

November 1, 2010	Application deadline
December 17, 2010	Selected ensembles invited to live auditions
January 16-18, 2011	Auditions in New York City
January 20-21, 2011	Auditions in New Orleans
January 28, 2011	Announcement of finalist ensembles for 2010-11 Rhythm Road tours
April-June 2011 & September 2011-February 2012	Domestic performances and international touring

Where/How:

For additional information plus photos and video on the program, applications, previous tours, and more, visit ***The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad*** at jalc.org/TheRoad.

Musicians inquiring about applications can call 212-258-9899 or email: theroad@jalc.org.

Background:

Jazz at Lincoln Center, in partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, produces an annual series of international tours for ten ensembles performing jazz, urban, and other American roots music to countries all over the world. Through performance, education, and person-to-person interaction, The Rhythm Road program encourages mutual respect and understanding. The program also incorporates free performances by each group at Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York, and at The National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. By December 2010, 150 musicians from 35 ensembles will have toured with The Rhythm Road, visiting over 100 countries on five continents.

Quotes:

"In the historic tradition of such musical alumni as Armstrong, Ellington, and Gillespie, these tours focus on diverse geographic audiences and the dynamic interaction born of music. The emphasis on education as well as performance leads to powerful exchange for our audiences and musicians alike," said Susan John, Director of Touring for Jazz at Lincoln Center.

"Music offers a common language that transcends borders, helps us engage as individuals, and promotes mutual understanding," said Ann Stock, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs. "Through The Rhythm Road tours, American musicians communicate something about our culture and the commonalities between people all over the world, touching audiences we might not otherwise reach and forging lasting connections."

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.

For more information:

Anna Kukowski, Burson-Marsteller for Jazz at Lincoln Center 212-614-4560,
anna.kukowski@bm.com.

Laura Tischler, U.S. Department of State, 202-632-6454, TischlerLL@state.gov.

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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 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.

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