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THE RHYTHM ROAD: AMERICAN MUSIC ABROAD TOURS SOUTHEAST ASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS FEATURING DANA LEONG BAND

November 23 - December 19, 2007



Dana Leong Band

WHO/WHAT: The Dana Leong Band, comprised of Dana Leong on trombone, cello and laptop, Jason Lindner on keyboards, Elliot Humberto Kavee on percussion and Baba Israel on vocals, continues the 2007-2008 Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad season.

WHEN: November 23 - December 19, 2007*

WHERE: FIJI: (November 23-25); PAPUA NEW GUINEA: (November 26-29);
VIETNAM: (November 30 - December 6); LAOS: (December 7-10);
CAMBODIA: (December 11-14); PHILIPPINES: (December 15-19)*

*Dates and locations subject to change

HOW:

Please visit the **Jazz at Lincoln Center website** at www.jalc.org/TheRoad/index.html for more information on The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad program. In addition, you can listen to music and stories about the program for free on **Jazz at Lincoln Center Radio** at <http://www.jalc.org/jazzcast/program.asp?programNumber=205>

BACKGROUND:

The program, produced by Jazz at Lincoln Center and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is designed to foster cultural exchange with audiences worldwide. Between Fall 2007 and Spring 2008, six jazz quartets and four urban music ensembles will visit regions including Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. Participating bands were selected from a national pool of applicants in a competitive audition process.

International tour activities include public concerts, master classes, lecture-demonstrations, workshops, jam sessions, media outreach and collaborations with local musicians. The program also incorporates free performances by each quartet hosted by Jazz at Lincoln Center at Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* in New York and at The National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C.

"Cultural diplomacy allows artists and audiences to share in a common experience that reaches beyond differences in culture, religion, language and generations and to connect as people without borders," said Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Professional and Cultural Exchanges Alina L. Romanowski.

Over the past two years, Jazz at Lincoln Center has produced 17 Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad tours visiting 120 cities, in 66 countries, on 5 continents.

“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.

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THE DANA LEONG BAND fuses live grooves with electronically-charged tracks. Bandleader Leong uses a laptop both onstage and in the studio to create soundscapes of electronic beats and instruments. The result is a unique merging of hip-hop funk rhythms and rock propulsions.

Dana Leong (trombone, cello, laptop) has been performing, recording, composing and producing almost every musical genre since his 1998 debut on the New York music scene. Over the past decade he has played with the 2006 GRAMMY® nominated Jazz Chamber Trio led by eight-time GRAMMY® winning clarinetist Paquito D’Rivera, as well as Ray Charles, Kanye West, Matisyahu, Norah Jones, Earth Wind & Fire, Barry White, Erykah Badu, Talib Kweli, Lauryn Hill, Alanis Morissette, Zap Mama, Wynton Marsalis, Yoko Ono, Christian McBride and the Balkan Beat Box. Leong has recently completed his debut album, *Leaving New York*, which features his own original compositions with guest appearances by Christian McBride and Paquito D’Rivera.

Baba Israel (vocals) is a hip-hop and spoken word artist who uses art as a means of forging connections across communities. He is co-founder of the Playback Theatre New York City, an improvisational theater, performing for a range of venues including hospitals, prisons and shelters. Israel has toured both domestically and internationally as both a performer and an arts educator. A recipient of the BRIO Grant and the Meet the Composer Grant, Israel has shared the stage with artists such as Afrika Bambaataa, The Roots, Outkast, Vernon Reid and the legendary Lester Bowie. *Mind Music*, his second album, is available on Velour Records.

Elliot Humberto Kavee (percussion) is known for both his polytimbral/polyrhythmic drumming technique and his passion for theater music. He has performed and recorded with a wide variety of artists including Omar Sosa, Joseph Jarman, Henry Threadgill, Steve Coleman, Don Cherry, Cecil Taylor, John Tchicai, Tim Berne, Rudresh Mahanthappa and Vijay Iyer. In addition to his musical pursuits, Kavee is also an actor and writer with the Tony Award winning San Francisco Mime Troupe. He has provided scores for G. W. Pabst’s *Pandora’s Box* and CBS’s *The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat*.

Jason Lindner (keyboards) grew up playing piano in Brooklyn, New York and apprenticed under Barry Harris and Chris Anderson before branching out from jazz to explore other genres. He has been a fixture on the New York jazz scene since the mid-90s, when the Greenwich Village club Smalls became the home for a new generation of forward-thinking jazz musicians. Lindner performs regularly in New York and beyond with the likes of

Claudia Acuña, Me'Shell NdegéOcello, Avishai Cohen, Pharaoh's Daughter, Roy Haynes, Lauryn Hill, Paquito D'Rivera and Christian McBride, among others.

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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 and television programs, recordings, publications, an annual high school jazz band competition and festival, a band director academy, a jazz appreciation curriculum for children, advanced training through the Juilliard Institute for Jazz Studies, music publishing, children's concerts, lectures, adult education courses and student and educator workshops. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis Jazz at Lincoln Center will produce nearly 2,000 events during its 2007-08 season in its home in New York City, Frederick P. Rose Hall, and around the world. For more information, visit www.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 programs 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 of jazz and urban music on concert tours in countries with limited exposure to live American culture. Further information about Cultural Programs of the U.S. Department of State is available at <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/citizens/culture/index.htm>.

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