

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:      OCTOBER 21, 2011**

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



***THE RHYTHM ROAD: AMERICAN MUSIC ABROAD PROGRAM  
ANNOUNCES  
MOUNTAIN QUICKSTEP TOUR DATES  
BLUEGRASS ENSEMBLE TO TRAVEL TO EASTERN EUROPE  
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 Mountain Quickstep will tour Kosovo, Bulgaria, Moldova, and Turkey with *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* program. The Bluegrass group from Beacon, New York, 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, 155 musicians from 40 ensembles have toured with the program, visiting over 100 countries on five continents.

As part of *The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad* program, Mountain Quickstep will also perform two concerts in the United States. In Washington, D.C., National

Geographic Live! will present the first concert on February 9, 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 11, 2012 at 2:30pm at Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

**Where/When:**

Mountain Quickstep will tour Kosovo (November 2-5), Bulgaria (November 6-12), Moldova (November 13-17), and Turkey (November 18-28).

*\*Dates and locations subject to change*

U.S. Concert Dates:

- Washington, D.C.: February 9, 2012 at 7:15pm at the Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW
- New York City: February 11, 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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**Mountain Quickstep** (Beacon, New York), combines elements from the old-time, bluegrass, and early country music of the Adirondack, Appalachian, and Smoky Mountain regions of the United States. For over 13 years, Mountain Quickstep has brought lively fiddle tunes, lonesome folksongs, and fancy footwork to audiences from New England to Texas and abroad. The toe-tapping instrumental and vocal harmony with French Canadian and Celtic influences showcases the diversity of rural American music. The opportunity to experience new cultures, hear traditional music from around the globe, and share its own music has inspired Mountain Quickstep to travel with The Rhythm Road.

**Sara Milonovich** (Vocals and Fiddle) is a singer, fiddler, composer, and bandleader as well as a sought-after accompanist for a number of other artists in many musical genres. She has been playing the fiddle for over 23 years and is versatile in many different styles. She has performed American roots, folk-rock, bluegrass, Celtic, and Appalachian music throughout the United States and Europe. Milonovich continues to tour as a solo artist, and in collaboration with artists such as Richard Shindell, Pete Seeger, and The McKrells.

**Greg Anderson** (Guitar and Bass) has been a mainstay in many folk, ethnic, and world music scenes throughout the years. He tours with celebrated Irish fiddler Eileen Ivers, and has worked with many other singer/songwriters, including Richard Shindell, Tommy Sands, and Dave Moore. He has also played with The Klezmatics and accompanied them on tours with legendary violinist Itzhak Perlman. As a

producer and arranger, he is a recognized expert in blending traditional and world music with contemporary sounds.

**John Kirk** (Vocals and Strings) is an acclaimed singer, songwriter, and versatile instrumentalist on fiddle, mandolin, guitar and banjo. As a career musician, he has toured throughout the world, playing music and singing in concerts, festivals and schools. In addition to his work with Mountain Quickstep, John performs with other artists, an international dance troupe, and he teaches at Bennington College in Vermont, and Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York. John can be heard as a studio musician contributing on over one hundred recordings. His song, "Long Roads", was recorded by the popular country band, the Dixie Chicks.

**Trish Miller** (Banjo and Guitar) has been performing and teaching Appalachian clog dancing since 1981. In addition to playing banjo and guitar, Trish is a popular caller for country square dances. Her stepping style is rooted in the southern mountains of the United States, mixed with influences from tap and Celtic repertoires. Early on, she danced with the Green Grass Cloggers from Asheville, North Carolina. Trish choreographs dance programs for schools, theater and festivals. She also teaches banjo at Skidmore College.

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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, weekly national radio programs, 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, 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 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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