

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad?**

The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad, produced by Jazz at Lincoln Center and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is a touring program designed to foster cultural exchange with audiences worldwide.

Through performance, education, and person-to-person interaction, The Rhythm Road program encourages mutual respect and understanding. International tour activities include public concerts, master classes, lecture-demonstrations, workshops, jam sessions, media appearances and collaborations with local musicians.

### **What kind of music does The Rhythm Road feature?**

The Rhythm Road showcases America's unique contribution to the world of music. Ensembles chosen to tour in 2010 specialize in American music including jazz, urban/hip hop and other roots music such as blues, bluegrass and gospel.

### **Who participates in The Rhythm Road?**

Ten musical groups were selected from a national pool of 132 in a competitive audition process. Finalist bands include Charlie Porter Quartet; Chen Lo and the Liberation Family; Johnny Rodgers Band; Little Joe McLerran Quartet; Mark Sherman-Tim Horner Quartet; Nasar Abadey and SUPERNOVA; Oscar Williams and Perfected Praise; Paul Beaudry & Pathways; The Student Loan; and Turning Pointe.

### **When will the ensembles perform?**

Each ensemble will tour internationally for four to five weeks within the period of March to December 2010. Before and after their international tours, The Rhythm Road musicians will perform in concerts in the United States. The Rhythm Road Web site, [jalc.org/TheRoad](http://jalc.org/TheRoad), will list U.S. and international tour dates for each ensemble.

### **Where do The Rhythm Road musicians perform in the United States?**

The Rhythm Road includes two free concert series in the U.S. In New York City, the ensembles perform at Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center. In Washington, D.C., presented by National Geographic Live!, artists perform in the Grosvenor Auditorium. Please visit [jalc.org/TheRoad](http://jalc.org/TheRoad) for a full schedule.

### **What types of educational activities do The Rhythm Road musicians present?**

The Rhythm Road emphasizes community engagement in addition to performance. Education is key to Jazz at Lincoln Center's mission and so The Rhythm Road ensembles are trained by Jazz at Lincoln Center to help them develop skills necessary to work with people of all ages, from general audiences to student or

professional musicians in a variety of settings. Educational activities range from presentations that encompass music, history and culture as well as interactive musical exchange including master classes, workshops and jam sessions.

**How have Rhythm Road alumni continued their involvement with cultural diplomacy programs? What types of activities do they pursue after touring with The Rhythm Road?**

Several musicians apply to tour again through The Rhythm Road, noting their positive experiences with the program and powerful opportunities for cultural exchange. In addition, some musicians apply for other exchange programs through the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

**Many of The Rhythm Road's musicians have performed as Jazz Ambassadors—a similar program—in years past. What is the relationship between Jazz Ambassadors and The Rhythm Road?**

The Rhythm Road evolved from Jazz Ambassadors, a program conceived by U.S. Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. in 1955.

Originally, Jazz Ambassadors was an important part of U.S. diplomacy during the Cold War. It began in 1956 with a tour by Dizzy Gillespie and an 18-piece band that traveled throughout southern Europe, the Middle East, and south Asia. Other Jazz Ambassadors tours featured Louis Armstrong in 1956, 1960 and 1961, Dave Brubeck in 1958, and Duke Ellington in 1963, 1970 and 1972.

In 2005, the name changed to The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad and expanded to its current incarnation, featuring jazz, urban/hip hop and other American roots music such as blues, bluegrass, Cajun, gospel, zydeco and country.

**Who are The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad press contacts?**

To speak with a press liaison, please contact:

- Anna Kukowski, Burson-Marsteller for Jazz at Lincoln Center; 212-614-4560, [anna.kukowski@bm.com](mailto:anna.kukowski@bm.com)
- David C. Grier, U.S. Department of State, 202-203-7007, [GrierDC@State.gov](mailto:GrierDC@State.gov)

**Where can I find more information about The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad?**

Please visit The Rhythm Road Web site, [jalc.org/TheRoad](http://jalc.org/TheRoad), for up-to-date international tour dates and locations, U.S. concert details, embassy resources, artist biographies and background information, digital content and updates on upcoming seasons. The U.S. Department of State also provides information and highlights at [exchanges.state.gov/cultural/rhythm.html](http://exchanges.state.gov/cultural/rhythm.html).

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