

The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad Quote Sheet

Press Quotes:

"A mesmerizing musical experience has captivated audiences across Asia" [on RR's All-Star Tour]
Chinadaily.com.cn, Beijing, China; September 15, 2007

"The idea of being able to have your own personality and being able to be who you are [while being] considerate of your community - people can relate to that when they see jazz,' says Roland [Ari Roland, Rhythm Road musician]. The music marries Western emphasis on the individual with Eastern notions of community, he says."
Christian Science Monitor, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.; September 6, 2007

"Like many Saudis, I have never been to a music concert in my life...I was very, very surprised, but unlike many surprises in this city, this one was a pleasant one...it's not every day that a prestigious jazz band comes all the way from New York to play their music in Saudi Arabia. It was lovely and the audience, a mixture of Saudis, Americans and other nationalities, enjoyed it immensely."
Saudi Jeans Blog, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; March 4, 2008

"When the saxophonist Chris Byars took a band to Saudi Arabia this year, he played the music of Gigi Gryce, a jazz composer of the 1940s and '50s who converted to Islam and changed his name to Basheer Qusim. "When I announce that I'm going to play compositions by the American jazz musician Basheer Qusim, that gets their attention," he said. "Afterward several people came up, very appreciative, saying very intensely, 'Thank you for coming to our country.' "
New York Times, New York, New York, U.S.; June 29, 2008

United States Embassy Reports

"At workshops, they [RR ensemble AFAR] held their students entranced, as they explored the intricacies of American song and the ups and downs of pursuing a career in music...crowds were rarely seated, as they danced and song to AFAR's unique mix of hip hop, pop, the blues and jazz."
U.S. Embassy Report, South Africa; November 28-December 6, 2007

"The audience clapped and cheered even in the middle of some songs - an extremely rare reaction for normally sedate Turkish audiences. The mayor of Adana, rector of Cukurova University and many other local dignitaries turned out for the concert and reception as well."
U.S. Embassy Report, Istanbul, Turkey; February 2007

"The presence of the Charlie Porter Quartet highlighted the importance of jazz as a genre of American music and was very useful in reaching out to high profile contacts, professional and youths. The master workshops and school visit proved to be highly educational and useful tool in sharing the value of American music and society...The program thoroughly advanced our goals of reaching out to the youths, democratic institutions and promoting a better understanding of the U.S."

U. S. Embassy Report, Nigeria; February 27-March 2, 2007

"The program reached young audiences of diverse ethnic backgrounds, as well as prominent professional musicians throughout the country. Master classes held at three music high schools were first-time-ever interactive sessions between professional jazz musicians from the U.S. and talented music students in Macedonia. Principals of all three music high schools extended invitations for further cooperation through the Embassy and are considering including jazz in their official curricula. "

U.S. Embassy Report, Skopje, Macedonia; November 26-30, 2006

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