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'It Ain't Necessarily So' in Kuala Lumpur

With Ferguson on the piano and Spaulding leading the Operafest choir in an amusing mimicry challenge, their version of It Ain't Necessarily So had the audience in stitches."

New Straits Times, Kuala Lumpur, July 8, 2003

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CADENCE

The Newsletter of American Voices

October 15, 2003

Director's Update: 'Steady Nerves'

Welcome to *Cadence*, American Voices' on-line newsletter where you are invited to read, view and listen to the latest news of our projects bringing American music and culture to a global audience.

Despite the many stresses and strains on the international stage during the past six months, we are relieved to report that we have been able to realize all of our projects as planned with a surprising minimum of disruption. We especially want to take this opportunity to thank our Embassy partners, sponsors and partner institutions who have stayed on board with us despite the uncertainties caused by Iraq and Sars. Your steady nerves enabled us to reach a live audience of over eight thousand in Azerbaijan during the Caspian Jazz and Blues Festival in May and to bring the first performances of Porgy and Bess to Vietnam in June.

We are looking forward to an exciting autumn season with the Kazakhstan International Jazz and Blues Festival in November as well as our American Music Festival in Vietnam in March of 2004. We have recently been asked to bring together Iraqi and American jazz musicians for a major festival in Germany next summer and are looking forward to this project as well as to re-establishing our many cultural projects in the Middle East.

And, in closing, an announcement that American Voices has transferred its main office to Bangkok! As a reflection of our increasing commitments in Central and Southeast Asia, we have relocated our main office to Bangkok. [Please click here for our updated contact information](#) and please update your e-mail contact for us: john.ferguson@americanvoices.org Contact information for American Voices staff, Liz Smiales, Mike Del Ferro and our webmaster Parithas remain unchanged.

We look forward to seeing you soon at our next concert in your part of the world!

John Ferguson, Artistic Director

Frederic Rzewski

Composer

Frances Richard

Vice-President ASCAP

Betty Blair

Azerbaijan International

Mission Statement:

American Voices is a non-profit organization devoted to the better understanding of American music and culture in countries lacking information about and regular contact with the United States and its artists.

American Voices organizes festivals, projects with conservatories, orchestras and opera houses, Artist-in-Residence programs and music score donations in countries as diverse as Burma, Vietnam, Syria, Oman, Turkmenistan, Estonia, El Salvador and Bolivia in addition to more traditional venues in countries such as Germany, Greece and Japan.

In repertoire ranging from Broadway and Jazz to contemporary composers and opera, American Voices performs over 100 concerts, masterclasses and workshops annually in over 30 countries in Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.



Interview and performance on 'Good Morning Belarus'

Our Sponsors 2003:

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Ira Spaulding with Prof. Rovko, Conductor Emeritus of the Choir of the Minsk Academy of Music



Recordings from Belarus and beyond

- **Belarus** - The Music Academy of Minsk has recently produced a CD recording of our February concert with the Academy Choir conducted by American Voices' Ira Spaulding. You may now listen to this outstanding choir singing a wide array of American Choral music ranging from Randall Thompson to Negro Spirituals on our website! [Listen](#) [Read More](#) [View Photos](#)
- **Azerbaijan** - The *Caspian Jazz and Blues Festival 2003* CD will be available in January 2004! This recording will feature highlights of this year's festival including American Voices' Deborah Carter, Mike Del Ferro Trio and the Baku Big Band as well as Azeri jazz artists and Norway's amazing Stian Carstensen performing with Azeri folk instrumentalists. [Read more and view photos](#)
- **Upcoming** recording projects include: *Kazakh Jazz 2003* and *American Voices Around the World* featuring recent live recordings from Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Vietnam and Thailand.
- American Voices' two recent CDs, **Jazz Bridges Burma** and **Caspian Jazz and Blues Festival 2002** are still available. *Get a complimentary CD of your choice when you [join 'Friends of American Voices'!](#)* [Read more](#)



Young soloist with the Baku Big Band'

Jazz and Blues Initiatives



Debut concert of the Baku Big Band

2003 has seen a significant increase in the amount and scope of our Jazz and Blues programming. Recent festivals and projects in the first half of 2003 alone have taken us to Burma (Mandalay), Estonia, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Malta and Taiwan.

Azerbaijan:

The highlight of our season so far has been the return of the Caspian Jazz and Blues Festival. Despite the many international and domestic events working against us in the spring of 2003, the festival went forward as planned reaching a live audience of over eight thousand, hundreds of young jazz students through workshops and featured the debut of the Baku Big Band. Despite the many doubts expressed by local musicians, we went forward with the Big Band project whose debut performance on the Maynard Ferguson gala evening turned out to be one of the highlights of the festival! The Festival 2003 compilation CD will be produced by the Baku Jazz Center this year and available on-line in January. [Read More](#) [View Photos](#)

Our plans for Azerbaijan in 2003/2004 include establishing the [Baku Big Band](#) as an on-going ensemble and founding a week of special concerts devoted to Azeri Folk Jazz on Azeri traditional instruments in cooperation with the National Conservatory of

Baker & McKenzie
Baku Jazz Center
BiTel Communications Bishkek
British Airways Baku, Bishkek
ChevronTexaco
ConocoPhilips
Devon Energy
Eren
Europa Plus
ExxonMobil
Fels Baku
Fishermans Wharf
Grand Hotel Europa
Hotel Intercontinental, Astana
Hyatt Hotels Almaty, Bishkek and Baku
ISR Plaza
Itochu
KLM Almaty
KocBank Baku
Lufthansa Airlines, Almaty
MBask
Opera Society of Bishkek
Panalpina Baku, Bishkek, Almaty
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Equatorial Hotel Saigon and Kuala Lumpur
Glass Egg Vietnam
Hanoi Daewoo Hotel
Hanoi TV Vietnam
Phillip Morris (Thailand) Ltd.
Regus Saigon
RMAAsia

Europe:

Grand Hotel Pristina
Radisson Hotel Tallinn
SAS Scandinavian Airlines
Swiss Airlines Pristina

Azerbaijan.



Members of the Art Music Academy, Rangoon

Burma:

First the good news... John Ferguson gave an interview in Washington to the Burmese service of Voice of America about the making of 'Jazz Bridges'. The CD has since been broadcast many times throughout Burma by Voice of America. We are however sad to report that our January repeat of the Jazz Bridges project in Mandalay, Burma was interrupted by Burmese authorities who at the last minute forbade the participation of our Burmese colleagues in the concert. Despite the many political problems in the country at this time, we hope to one day be able to resume our activities there unimpeded.

We have recently raised over six hundred dollars for the Art Music Academy through donations at our recent concerts in Taiwan and Thailand. As a continued gesture of support for this unique private music school in Burma, we will channel 100% of your donations earmarked for Burma to the Art Music Academy to aid them in their search for a new facility. [Please go to the Friends of American Voices section below for information on how to donate to this cause.](#)



Mike Del Ferro, Jazz Programming Director, plays Bel Canto in Malta

Coming Jazz Events in 2003/2004:

- *Kazakhstan International Jazz Festival:* November 2 to 23rd in Almaty, Astana, and Atyrau. More info at www.americanvoices.org/kz
- *Mississippi Blues Night in Kyrgyzstan:* November 24th at the Philharmonic Hall, Bishkek
- *Baku Big Band Weeks:* October 19 to 23 with Werner Englert and January 2004 with Ernest Hammes of the Maynard Ferguson Big Band
- *Gulf Jazz Tour:* February 2003 tour of the Persian Gulf countries
- *Mississippi/Mekong Blues Project:* March 2003 tour of Southeast Asia: concerts at our American Music Festival Vietnam as well as in Laos, Cambodia and northern Thailand

Recent Projects 2003:

Festivals:

[Caspian Jazz and Blues Festival 2003, Baku](#)

Projects:

- *The Jets vs. The Sharks in Bishkek*: Young Kyrgyz singers perform excerpts from West Side Story for a distinguished audience including YoYo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble. The preparations for this show were made into a documentary for Kyrgyz television. Short excerpts available on the website soon! [Read the 'Times of Central Asia' article](#) [View Photos](#)



Jets and Sharks in Rehearsal



'America' in Bishkek

- ['Porgy and Bess' debuts in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City](#). The remarkable choirs of the Conservatories of these two vibrant cities gave lively performances of excerpts from 'Porgy and Bess'.

American Opera Exploring Hanoi

"Broadway is a favorite destination for foreign visitors to the USA, but Hanoi audiences recently had the good fortune to take a quick tour of American Broadway repertoire and Gershwin's Porgy and Bess during American Voices' second program in the city in as many years. Nowhere else could the performers have such an ideal and excited audience as at the concert hall of the Hanoi Conservatory."

The Vietnam Times, Hanoi,

June 5, 2003

- *Choral programs for Black History Month in Estonia and Belarus and Kazakhstan*: Stunning choral beauty from young [Belarusian](#), [Kazakh](#) and [Estonian](#) choirs
- *Kosovar Variations on America*: [View photos of our first project in Kosovo](#) with the University of Pristina Music Department
- [Malta Jazz Festival](#): CoCo York and Mike Del Ferro were a huge success at this prominent festival

"CoCo York was outstanding in Unchain My Heart...Her rendition of this song was in itself an explanation of how Gospel evolved into the Blues."

The Sunday Times, Malta, July 27, 2003





CD and music score donation in Almaty

Music scores donations from Minsk to Kuala Lumpur:

The past half year has seen music score donations in Estonia, Belarus, Baku, Bishkek, Dushanbe, Albania and Kuala Lumpur. In Almaty, Kazakhstan we have made a donation of History of Jazz CDs to the National Conservatory during our recent project there.

If you would like to facilitate a donation of American music scores to the conservatory or national library of your choice, please contact us !

The American Voices' *Music Library Project* has facilitated over 50 donations to libraries in all corners of the world. In addition, the scope of the repertoire continues to expand to include orchestral scores, jazz scores and teaching materials in co-ordination with our increased activities in jazz education. [Read more](#)

Introducing New Jazz Artists Werner Englert and Deborah Carter

American Voices is pleased to introduce two artists new to our roster.

Werner Englert: Big Band leader and Jazz saxophonist Werner Englert has been working with American Voices extensively over the past two years in Baku. The mastermind behind this year's overwhelmingly successful Baku Big Band project, Werner is quite active throughout Germany as a jazz educator and workshop leader. He will also conduct a week-long Big Band project and concert with the Almaty Youth Jazz Band for the Kazakhstan International Jazz and Blues Festival this November.



Deborah Carter: Jazz vocalist Deborah Carter gave her first performances for American Voices during our ill-fated Mandalay, project in Burma that was severely hampered by Burmese government interference. She rose to the occasion however and delivered a stunning performance despite the last minute interruptions. Other recent successes include her recent rendering in Azeri of songs by Tofik Kuliyevev during the Caspian Jazz and Blues festival. This performance elicited a huge response and the undying affection of Baku audiences. Welcome Deborah!

As the Foundation Grows.....Sponsorship News:

The first part of 2003, despite the many challenges on the international stage, saw our sponsorship base continue to grow. We would like to thank our numerous sponsors for helping us to reach our ambitious program goals in 2003, especially those committed to helping us realize our two new festivals, the American Music Festival Vietnam and the Kazakhstan International Jazz and Blues Festival. In addition, we would like to thank all our sponsors in [Azerbaijan](#) who came through during an exceedingly difficult period. [Read more](#)



*Sponsor
Banners in
Baku*



*Caspian Jazz
and Blues
Festival Team
of Friends and
Volunteers*

Friends of American Voices:

Many of you wrote to say that you were having difficulties with our on-line registration process for joining and making a donation to Friends of American Voices. We have updated this section of the website now and invite you to contact us again!

There are many ways you can become part of our team bringing American music and expertise to audiences and students around the world. Perhaps you would like to facilitate a music score donation in a favorite country or contribute to one of our festivals? Perhaps you would like to join one of our teams of festival volunteers in Vietnam, Baku or Kazakhstan?

By joining 'Friends of American Voices' with a donation of \$25 or over you will receive a complimentary copy of either our *Jazz Bridges* or *Caspian Jazz and Blues Festival 2002* CDs. [Read more](#)

Sound, video, brochures and news now on-line at www.americanvoices.org

The new and improved American Voices website awaits you with a wider array of sound files, video, detailed program information, on-line brochures and much more:

Where are we today? Visit the American Voices Concert Schedule:



The future of Jazz

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