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Chris Gamez of Havikoro Houston

CADENCE

The Newsletter of American Voices

September 20, 2004 **Director's Update:**



Breakdancing workshops in Baku with Havikoro from Houston

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

American Voices is proud to announce that we have just received our not-for-profit status in the United States! We have been operating for the past twelve years as a Netherlands-based foundation and it feels good to be "coming home". Please stay as we begin to shift the majority of our operations from Amsterdam to our Houston offices over the next year.

Our artistic programming has already begun to reflect the new American Voices. We have embarked on a new program, **Houston Artists Abroad**, to promote Houston artists and arts organizations and bring the city's dynamism to the world. Our first project in this effort was a roaring success as we brought Houston's internationally renowned break dancing/rap/DJ group, **Havikoro**, to Baku as headline artists for our Baku Jazz Festival. Presenting Havikoro and their positive message of clean living to a rapturous young audience in Baku has been one of the highlights of our organizational history and has encouraged us to expand further into presentations of youth culture abroad.

Our leadership is also reflecting our new American base. We are glad to welcome our **new U.S. board of directors** and would especially like to introduce our board member Rachel Dvoretzky to our readers. Rachel has been working in Houston's not-for-profit sector for many years and will bring her expertise and understanding to our goal of achieving a secure and stable funding base over the coming years.

2004 has been an exciting year so far – the first Broadway (ever) in Vietnam, Jazz in Algeria, the legendary drummer Jack de Johnette in Taiwan, and much more. I hope you will enjoy reading the news of the past concert season as we continue to bring American culture and music to the far corners of the world.

John Ferguson, Artistic Director

Board of advisors:

Leonard Slatkin

National Symphony Orchestra

Maynard Ferguson

Jazz Trumpeter

William Bolcom

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Joan Morris

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

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, opera and Youth Culture, American Voices performs over 100 concerts, masterclasses and workshops annually in over 30 countries in Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.

Our Sponsors 2004:

Unocal Foundation, USA
Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh
APL, Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC)
Citibank, HCMC and Brunei
Johnson & Johnson, HCMC
Equatorial Hotel, HCMC
Daewoo Hotel, Hanoi

**New Recordings:
'American Voices
Around the World'**



Broadway in Vietnam, 'Tonight' from West Side Story

American Voices is producing a new compilation CD featuring live highlights from our festivals and projects in Burma, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Thailand. Entitled "American Voices Around the World," the CD is slated for release in November of this year. Please [join Friends of American Voices](#) now for your *free copy* of this unique CD featuring jazz, blues and classical performances from around the world! Profuse thanks to our sound and recording engineer Tijmen Zinkhaan in The Netherlands who has volunteered to produce this for us at no cost.

<http://www.recandplay.nl/>

Jazz Bridges Central Asia is the title of a CD release planned for mid-2005. The recording will feature jazz and traditional music encounters between American Voices and local musicians in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.



American Voices joins forces with Kazakh traditional musicians for new CD

Jazz and Blues Initiatives :

Late 2003 and 2004 have seen American Voices take jazz and blues performances to an ever wider global audience stretching from Algeria to Taiwan and from Tunisia to Belarus. We have also continued our festivals in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan and are planning future festivals in the Balkans and in Southeast Asia.

Kazakhstan: Kazakhstan's first international jazz festival was a resounding success. Building on our "Jazz from J to Z" event in April 2002, the festival presented a Big Band evening, Kazakh jazz night and the Mississippi Blues Night with CoCo York. The Kazakh Jazz Fusion project brought Norwegian multi-instrumentalist Stian Carstensen to

Almaty to work with Kazakh traditional instrumentalists. The result was a truly magical evening to close the festival events.

More http://www.americanvoices.org/re_prog_2003.htm#0311



Kazakh students of traditional music at National Conservatory in Astana

Glass Egg, HCMC
 Lufthansa, HCMC and Almaty
 Saigon Town and Country Club, HCMC
 German Embassy, Baku
 Austrian Airlines, Baku and Kiev
 Embassy of The Netherlands, Baku
 Enka Teknik, Baku
 ERN Construction, Baku
 MBask, Baku
 British Airways, Kosovo
 General Electric, Malta
 Melita Cable, Malta
 MIDI, Malta
 Air Malta
 FuLu Foundation, Taipei
 Polaris Foundation, Taipei
 Taiwan Broadband Corporation, Taipei
 SES Asia, Taipei
 American Institute Taipei
 Belgian Trade Association, Taipei
 ATV Tony's Music World, Taipei
 Grand Hyatt Hotel, Taipei
 Okan Intercontinental Hotel, Almaty
 Premier Alatau Hotel. Almaty
 ChevronTexaco, Almaty
 Panalpina, Almaty
 ExxonMobil, Almaty
 Samsung, Almaty
 PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Almaty

Russia, Caucasus and Central Asia:

AmCham Almaty
 AmCham Baku
 ACCELS
 Amsco
 ATL
 Avis
 AzFen Baku
 AzEuroTel
 BakCell
 Baker & McKenzie
 Baku Jazz Center
 BiTel Communications
 Bishkek British Airways Baku, Bishkek
 ChevronTexaco
 ConocoPhilips
 Devon Energy
 Eren
 Europa Plus
 ExxonMobil
 Fels Baku
 Fishermans Wharf

Thailand: CoCo York and the Mike Del Ferro Trio performed a memorable evening of the Mississippi Blues Night concert in Chiang Mai. An overflow crowd included local celebrities such as the Regional governor, nuns from regional schools and barefoot Burmese refugees. This concert was sponsored in part by PhillipMorris. [More](http://www.americanvoices.org/re_prog_2003.htm#0310)
http://www.americanvoices.org/re_prog_2003.htm#0310

Taiwan: American Voices has established a close working relationship with the National Concert Hall and their Summer Jazz Festival. In 2003 we presented **Toots Thielemans** with the Mike Del Ferro Trio and just last month, the legendary drummer, **Jack De Johnette**, also with the Mike Del Ferro Trio. Both concerts were sold out to an audience of over 2000 jazz fans.



Legendary drummer Jack de Johnette performed in Taipei in August

Taiwan International Summer Jazz Academy!

Together with Taiwan's outstanding jazz musicians and teachers, ChiPin Hsieh and Kaiya Chang, American Voices conducted a summer jazz academy during the 3rd week in August 22 to 27. In spite of a severe typhoon, an international faculty of eight provided 18 hours per day of training, performance opportunities and jam sessions to 55 students from throughout the country. Our gala closing concerts in Taipei and Taichung will be rebroadcast on the Taiwan Broadband Corporation television network in September. This was, believe it or not, the *first opportunity* for young Taiwanese jazz musicians to study intensively with international jazz artists from the USA and Europe. The Summer Jazz Academy is an annual event, but we may hold it earlier next year to try to head off the typhoon season! [More](http://www.americanvoices.org/2004_Taiwan_01.htm#0410)
http://www.americanvoices.org/2004_Taiwan_01.htm#0410



Jazz Piano master class with Mike Del Ferro



Typhoon in Taipei

Azerbaijan: Baku Jazz Festival 2004

Our longest-running festival! Once again the Baku Big Band project proved to be one of the main attractions of the festival. For the younger generations, the festival's highlight was undoubtedly the workshops, performances and break dancing competitions with the Havikoro break-

Grand Hotel Europa
 Hotel Intercontinental, Astana
 Hyatt Hotels Almaty, Bishkek and Baku
 ISR Plaza
 Itochu
 KLM Almaty
 KocBank Baku
 Lufthansa Airlines, Almaty
 MBask



Jazz vocalist Deborah Carter performed recently in Algeria and Tunisia

Opera Society of Bishkek
 Panalpina Baku, Bishkek, Almaty
 Radisson Hotel Baku
 Salans
 Schlumberger
 Shell
 Sheraton Grand Turkmen
 Statoil
 Tekfen
 Turkish Petroleum
 Unocal

Asia:
 AmCham Vietnam
 Citibank Vietnam
 Dirksen Flipse Doran & Le
 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

dancers, rappers and DJs from Houston.

More http://www.americanvoices.org/2004_Baku_01.htm#0403



Baku Big Band joins forces with Beribakh choir

Algeria: After years of few outside visits, Algeria is once again able to open its doors to cultural exchange. Deborah Carter and the Mike Del Ferro Trio were received with open arms by the students of the National Conservatory and the music-loving public.



Guitar class at National Conservatory Algiers

More http://www.americanvoices.org/2004_Algeria_Tunis_01.htm#0408

Upcoming Jazz Events:

Bangkok, October 2, International Festival of Music and Dance
 Mississippi Blues Night with CoCo York and Mike Del Ferro Trio

Nov 15 to 22, Rangoon and Mandalay

Dec 6 to 12, Kazakhstan International Jazz Festival in Aktau, Atyrau and Astana



The youth Big Band of the Summer Jazz Academy Taiwan



The future of Taiwanese jazz

Recent Projects 2004 :

Black History Month in Cambodia and Vietnam featuring Antoine Garth, tenor of Chiang Mai

More Cambodia http://www.americanvoices.org/2004_Cambodia_01.htm#0401

More Vietnam http://www.americanvoices.org/2004_Hanoi_01.htm#0402

Broadway in Vietnam – A project with historic dimensions! The first performances of Broadway repertoire in Vietnam took place in Ho Chi Minh City with a cast featuring the voice students of the Saigon Conservatory and American Voices' soloists.



More http://www.americanvoices.org/2004_Hanoi_01.htm#0402_2

'America' as performed by the vocal class of the Saigon Conservatory

American Choral Music in Belarus, Ukraine and Kosovo Ira



Spaulding and John Ferguson returned to Eastern Europe with performances of excerpts from *Porgy and Bess* and other American choral repertoire.

More http://www.americanvoices.org/2004_Minsk_01.htm#0404

Listen <http://www.americanvoices.org/sounds.htm#m2>

The choir of the Gliere Academy in rehearsal

'Variations on America' in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan In a tour that featured the surreal landscapes of the Central Asian Steppes and the Tien Shan mountain range, American Voices musicians traveled bumpy



back roads to provincial capitals in cities including Oskamen, Semey and Karaganda, Kazakhstan and Jalalabad, Osh and Karakol, Kyrgyzstan.

More http://www.americanvoices.org/2004_Kyrgyzstan_01.htm#0406

Traveling to Karakol via Lake Issykul, Kyrgyzstan

Ragtime in Brunei The chance to give a solo piano concert in the Sultanate of Brunei was a rare opportunity. Preparations for the gala concert at the Empire Hotel were astonishing as every corner one



turned in this vast edifice revealed yet another amazing Steinway or Fazioli grand piano. A pianist's paradise! Now....if only they would begin to break these instruments in and use them for more than decoration... **More**

http://www.americanvoices.org/2004_Brunei_01.htm#0409

Brunei, students of St. Andrew's School

Bernstein in Malta Visits to Malta are an annual tradition of American Voices and every program and project there has been a real pleasure. After last years' *Porgy and Bess* and the *Malta Jazz Festival*, this season found American Voice's Kathryn Magestro and Kurt Ollmann performing a 'Best of Bernstein' concert with the National Orchestra under the baton of David Handel. **More**

http://www.americanvoices.org/2004_Malta_01.htm#0407

New Artists:



Soprano **Jacquelyn Culpepper** has been collaborating with artistic director John Ferguson since their early career days as soloists in the North Carolina Visiting Artist Program. Jacque returned to our podium this year to introduce Vietnamese students to singing Broadway in the first

performances of this repertoire ever in Vietnam. Working and performing in Vietnam was actually very similar in content to her daily schedule of teaching voice, producing musical theatre and solo concerts at Davidson College in North Carolina. The challenge of teaching staging and choreography to young Vietnamese vocalists singing in English for the first time was a challenge she took on with gusto. With only two weeks of preparation time, Jacque prepared over 30 young singers to sing excerpts from *Porgy and Bess* and *West Side Story* to a wildly enthusiastic audience. Many thanks to Davidson College for making her appearance in Vietnam possible!

More http://www.americanvoices.org/2004_Hanoi_01.htm#0402_2

Bio http://www.americanvoices.org/art_m.htm#JacqueCulpepper



I Want to Be in America....

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

Our sponsorship base continues to grow. We would like to thank our numerous sponsors for helping us to reach our ambitious program



goals in 2003 and 2004, especially those committed to helping us realize our new festival in Kazakhstan and our Summer Jazz Academy in Taiwan

More <http://www.americanvoices.org/sponsorinfo.htm>

Volunteers at TISJA Taiwan

Friends of American Voices:

Please help us celebrate our new home in the United States, with a



tax-deductible donation to American Voices, USA. By joining *Friends of American Voices* with a donation of \$25 or over you will receive a complimentary copy of either our new CD ***American Voices Around the World*** .



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?

Or join one of our teams of festival volunteers in Vietnam, Baku or

Kazakhstan? **More** <http://www.americanvoices.org/friends.htm>