

## Jazz Legends, Indian Masters Join Forces for Goodwill Celebration

As Herbie Hancock, George Duke and Dee Dee Bridgewater entered the Ravi Shankar Institute of the Performing Arts in New Delhi in February, they noted the welcome sign adorning the entrance: "Peace Through Music." It was the first time that Hancock and sitarist Shankar met and played together—a convergence of cultures reminiscent of the event they were celebrating.

The U.S. State Department, Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations began planning this event last summer. The musicians gathered for the tour, which included concerts in New Delhi and Mumbai, between Feb. 13 and 18 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s month-long pilgrimage to India to study Mahatma Gandhi's teachings on nonviolence. Martin Luther King III was also part of the group of visiting dignitaries.

Besides the main concerts in New Delhi and Mumbai, the headliners and students from the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz in New Orleans performed at an orphanage as part of an outreach program in Mumbai. At the Ravi Shankar Institute, Hancock and Shankar taught a master class.

"There's no greater ambassador than a

musician for goodwill among nations," Duke said. "Music is the true international language. It speaks to people's hearts and you don't need a language to be completely understood. Musicians can do way more than any politician on a one-to-one level."

The U.S. Information Agency, as part of the State Department, founded the Jazz Ambassador program in the mid-1950s to counter Soviet propaganda in the midst of the Cold War. During the past decade, the Jazz Ambassador program has seen a revival in its transformation into programs like The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad, co-organized by New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center.

"If you're going to celebrate an American transformation, what better art form than jazz?" said Michael Macy, cultural attaché for the U.S. Cultural Affairs Office. "Jazz is popular in India. It communicates to an Indian audience. And we had tabla player Zakir Hussain, who has his own influence on American music."

This was Hancock's third Jazz Ambassador



George Duke (left), Ravi Shankar and Herbie Hancock

tour of India (his first was in 1996 with the Monk Institute) and Duke's second in three years, performing before with Al Jarreau, Ravi Coltrane and Earl Klugh.

"This is a great moment for the musicians to be working under Hancock and hopefully that will help to bring more of the Indian art forms out there," Hussain said.

Bridgewater said the musicians' visit met their expectations.

"Music is a healing force," Bridgewater said. "Just the reaction of the audience in Delhi was evidence that music could indeed bridge cultural gaps."

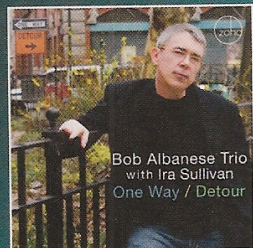
—Brian Dwyer



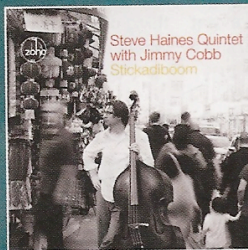
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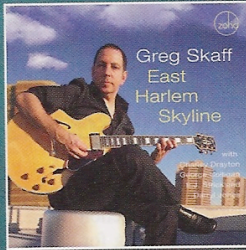
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### BOB ALBANESE TRIO — One Way / Detour

With special guest Ira Sullivan, sax. "Bob Albanese is a rhymers, a poetic soul ... He has all the requisites—harmonic acumen, melodicism and swing. With all that he has nuance, that certain something that gives him distinction." —*Ira Gitler*

### STEVE HAINES — Stickadiboom

"... gloriously cool and hard swinging bop celebration led by veteran bassist Steve Haines ... an instant classic ... Holding down the rhythm section with Haines and dexterous as ever is 78-year-old Jimmy Cobb, member of the classic Miles quintet that recorded Kind of Blue." —*Allmusic.com*

### GREG SKAFF — East Harlem Skyline

On East Harlem Skyline, Skaff feeds the "increased appetite for the soulful funkiness of a Hammond B3 organ/guitar trio ... dexterous guitar and extra juicy B3 across ballads, jazz and straight up funk. Nothing lean here. Big, fat and high in carbs!" —*All About Jazz*  
Guests: Darryl Jones, Charley Drayton.

### ARTURO O'FARRILL & THE AFRO-LATIN JAZZ ORCHESTRA — Song for Chico [2009 GRAMMY WINNER!]

This is the finest band I have ever performed with in my life. They make me feel as if I have returned to Cuba." —*Bebo Valdez*  
"The Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra sounds great with precision brass and saxophone work ... a warm, cohesive sound." —*The New York Times*

### RUFUS HUFF — Rufus Huff

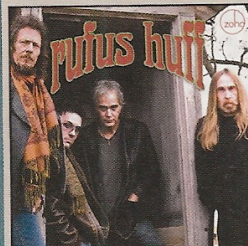
Named after obscure Blues men Whistlin' Rufus and Luther Huff, Kentucky's Rufus Huff features Greg Martin, known for his raucous, incendiary guitar playing in The Kentucky Headhunters. "Rufus Huff delivers hard riffage soaked in Southern soul. Greg's spine-tingling guitar solos evoke Duane Allman, Mick Taylor, and Bluesbreakers-era Eric Clapton, while remaining utterly his own." —*Andy Ellis*

### BROTHERS OF THE SOUTHLAND — Brothers of the Southland

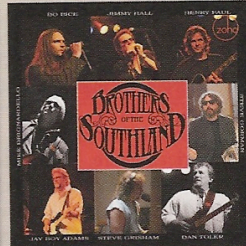
"Brothers of the Southland" aims at nothing less than revitalizing Southern Rock by presenting the genre's greatest musicians of several generations in a collaborative All-Stars format, including singers Bo Diddley (ex American Idol 2005), Jimmy Hall (ex Wet Willie), Jeff Beck, Hank Williams Jr., Henry Paul (The Outlaws, Blackhawk), and Dan Toler (Allman Brothers Band).



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