

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

From Bluegrass to Alternative Rock, American Bands Named for International Cultural Diplomacy Tours

Washington, D.C. — Nine American bands representing a diverse variety of American music have been selected to embark on 4-6 week international tours to collaborate and engage with global audiences. The tours are part of the American Music Abroad (AMA) program, an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in partnership with [American Voices](#).

AMA is designed to foster cross-cultural connections between American musicians and global audiences. During their tours bands will collaborate with local musicians, hold workshops and classes, and perform at community events. AMA not only helps facilitate people-to-people interactions, it also showcases America's rich and diverse musical history to audiences around the world.

The selected bands represent a wide range of genres, backgrounds and geographical regions. The groups include ACIDIC, The Exchange, Break of Reality, Chelsey Green and the Green Project, Jonathan Scales Fourchestra, Karikatura, Kenny Wesely, Natalia Zukerman, Wordsmith. To find out more about each group visit amvoices.org/ama.

Final bands were chosen through a vigorous application and audition process. The AMA judging panel, which represented musical talent from around the country, selected 43 bands to audition live from an application pool of nearly 300 bands. From those 43 bands, the finalists were selected not only for their immense musical talent, but also for their engaging educational programming, which they will be sharing with international audiences as part of their tour.

AMA tours will begin in the fall of 2016 and continue into spring of 2017, with programming in more than 40 countries ranging from remote Palau and Papua New Guinea to the megacities of Lahore and Cairo. Stay updated on AMA tours on Facebook (facebook.com/americanmusicabroad), Twitter (twitter.com/USAmusicabroad) and by using the hashtag #AmericanMusicAbroad.

American Voices has been conducting cross-cultural engagement with audiences in more than 110 nations worldwide since 1993. Serving as a cultural bridge, American Voices has introduced American music and culture the world over, showcasing a wide variety of genres ranging from jazz to classical symphony to hip hop in counties including Iraq, Afghanistan and Sudan. Meanwhile, our Youth Excellence on Stage (YES) Performance Academies have brought Broadway theatrical education programs to places such as Thailand, Pakistan and Lebanon. American Voices programming provides much-needed expertise and support to aspiring musicians, dancers and actors, as well as enhancing cultural understanding and communications among peoples and nations. For its cultural diplomacy work, the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy (USCCD) selected American Voices as a "Best Practice Organization" in 2010. In October 2011, American Voices was the chosen by the U.S. Department of State to administer the American Music Abroad program.



American Music Abroad is funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by the Association of American Voices

###