

PRESS RELEASE



2nd Floor, Briar Place, Sweet Briar Street
Port of Spain
Trinidad & Tobago
Tel: (868) 622-6371
Fax: (868) 822-5574

**EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION**

April 17, 2012

**FREE JAZZ CONCERT AND MASTER CLASS FEATURING MUSICIANS FROM U.S.
MARINE BAND**

In celebration of Jazz Month in April, the United States Embassy and the University of Trinidad and Tobago's (UTT) Academy for the Performing Arts will on Thursday, April 26, 2012 host "**Jazz Journey**", a free concert at the National Academy for the Performing Arts, Port of Spain.

The featured artistes will include Master Gunnery Sergeant Robert Boguslaw, a Pianist and Gunnery Sergeant Eric Sabo, a Double Bassist of the U.S. Marine Band. They will hold a public master class for jazz students and aficionados as well as private master classes for Divine Echoes and the Holistic Music School Band and workshops for students of the Academy for the Performing Arts (APA).

Performing alongside them will be **band leader and UTT staff musician Brian Kushmaul, guest Saxophonist Jeffrey Wills of Nashville, TN, and Trinidad percussionist Tamba Gwindi.**

The United States Marine Band was established on July 11, 1798 and is America's oldest continuously active professional musical organization. It is part of "The President's Own", which also encompasses the United States Marine Chamber Orchestra and Marine Chamber Ensembles, which perform regularly at the White House.

Gunnery Sgt Boguslaw has been a member of the Marine Band since 1991. In 2003 he was appointed section leader for the Marine Band's keyboard section and later that year, section commander for the band's combo section. MGySgt Boguslaw began his musical training at age 6 and has a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, where he studied with Rosalina Sackstein. He also studied privately with Fred Coulter in Miami.

MGySgt Boguslaw earned a master's degree in music in 1987 from the University of Kentucky in Lexington, where he studied piano with Lucien Stark.

Double bassist Gunnery Sergeant Eric Sabo joined "The President's Own" United States Marine Chamber Orchestra in April 2000. GySgt Sabo began his musical instruction at age 12. After graduating from Trevor G. Browne High School in Phoenix in 1992, he attended Arizona State University in Tempe, where he earned a bachelor's degree in music and studied with Dan Swaim. He has also completed one year of master's-level study at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, where he studied with Chris Brown of St. Paul, Minn.

Percussionist Brian Kushmaul is currently Senior Artist in Residence at the University of Trinidad and Tobago's Academy of Performing Arts, where he co-leads the Percussion Program for BFA and Artist Diploma students. As a jazz musician, Brian has performed with many major US artists, including Bobby McFerrin, Dave Grusin, Doc Severinsen, Eddie Daniels, Jeff Tyzik, and Hank Marr. As a classical percussionist, he has performed with the Saint Louis Symphony, IRIS Orchestra, Columbus Symphony, and Phoenix Symphony, and is currently Principal Percussionist of the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra. Brian has also performed extensively as a flamenco percussionist with the group AL SUR. Brian has held teaching positions at the University of Evansville and the University of Louisville. He has recorded with groups including the Central Standard Time Jazz Quartet, AL SUR Flamenco Ensemble, IRIS Orchestra, the Chautauqua Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, and the Tanglewood Music Festival Orchestra.

Guest Saxophonist Jeffrey Wills of Nashville, TN attended Capital University in Columbus, Ohio where he earned a BA in music education, graduating *summa cum laude* in December 1988. He attended the University of Tennessee where he obtained a Master of Jazz Performance degree studying with Jerry Coker and Donald Brown. Shortly after relocating to Nashville in 1994, Jeffrey became the saxophonist for Grammy Award winning vocal group Take 6. His other recording and performance credits include Michael McDonald, Engelbert Humperdinck, Donna Summer, Clark Terry, Terry Gibbs, Christopher Cross, Bela Fleck, T. Graham Brown, Brian McKnight, Denver and the Mile High Orchestra, the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, the Grand Ole Opry, the Rosie O'Donnel Show, TBS' Live at the House of Blues, HBO and many others. http://jeffreyscotwills.net/jeffrey_scot_wills/Photos.html

Trinidadian Tamba Gwindi is a Multi/percussionist who works in various musical situations with various artistes. His styles of music performance vary from African drum to dance performance. He is the manager of the Divine Echoes Band.

The jazz master class will be held on Tuesday April 24 from 5 pm at Theatre 1, APA, Keate Street, Port of Spain.

The concert is scheduled for 6 pm on April 26, 2012 at the Lord Kitchener Auditorium, National Academy for the Performing Arts and is free to the public. Tickets can be collected at NAPA's box office between 12 noon to 6 pm Monday to Friday.

Members of the media are invited to provide coverage of the event.

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