

Grants Announced for 2011-2012 French-American Jazz Exchange

Baltimore, MD - October 26, 2011 - Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, and [FACE](#) (French-American Cultural Exchange) have announced four grants totalling \$96,703 in support of the 2011-2012 French-American Jazz Exchange ("FAJE") program. FAJE is dedicated to furthering the creative and professional development of jazz artists from France and the United States through the interchange of artistic practice and exposure to new constituencies. FAJE is made possible through the generous support of [Cultural Services of the French Embassy](#), [Doris Duke Charitable Foundation](#), [Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs de Musique](#) (SACEM), Florence Gould Foundation and InstitutFrançais.

Applications to the program were assessed through an adjudicated review process. Four experienced artists and arts professionals, two from France and two from the United States, were selected to review the applications and serve as panelists. The panel included:

- Taylor Ho Bynum, jazz musician, New Haven, CT
- Andy Elmer, jazz musician, Lésigny, France
- John Gilbreath, Executive Director, Earshot Jazz, Seattle, WA
- Philippe Ochem, Director, Jazzdor/Festival de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France

The panel recommended the following projects for funding:

John Hébert with Benoit Delbecq

Double bassist John Hébert will work with percussionist Gerald Cleaver and French pianist and keyboardist Benoit Delbecq to create, record and perform a three-movement jazz suite based on his experiences as a Cajun raised in southern Louisiana. The project will include time in Paris (rehearsal and performances), New York (performances and recording), and New Orleans (performances, television and radio appearances, and a workshop at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts).

Keith Witty with Christophe Panzani

Bassist Keith Witty and Guillermo Brown on drums, electronics and vocals will collaborate with French saxophonist Christophe Panzani to further develop their jazz trio *Thiefs* through rehearsal, the production of a studio recording, hiring a publicist, and touring engagements in France and the United States to promote the release of their CD. In addition to their performances, the artists will conduct master classes at Bard College, Wesleyan University and two Paris conservatories.

Somi with Ibrahim Maalouf

Vocalist Somi working with her American colleagues guitarist Liberty Ellman, bassist Michael Olatuja, drummer Obed Calvaire, and pianist Toru Dodo will partner with French-Lebanese trumpeter Ibrahim Maalouf on a project investigating the role of women and girls in the recent protests sweeping across the Arab world. Activities will take place in France and the United States, including composing, recording, post-production, and performances in Paris, New York and other French and American cities.

Tarbaby with Marc Ducret

The quartet Tarbaby (pianist Orrin Evans, saxophonist Oliver Lake, bassist Eric Revis, and drummer Nasheet Waits) will collaborate with the French jazz guitarist Marc Ducret on a musical homage to the French philosopher and psychologist Frantz Fanon. The project will take place in France and the United States and include the creation, rehearsal and professional recording of new work influenced

by the writings of Fanon on decolonization and the struggle for liberation. The collaboration will perform the work in New York and Paris as well as conduct a workshop at the Girard Academic Music Program in Philadelphia.

FAJE, co-administered by FACE and Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, annually awards up to \$100,000 in grants through a competitive application process to support projects that take place either in France or the United States and their territories or both, within a 16-month period. Individual artists or ensembles whose members are citizens or permanent residents of France or the United States and are based in their resident countries are eligible to participate in the program. Funding may be used towards artist stipends, communications, equipment and space rentals, marketing, recording and production fees, shipping, travel-related expenses, and visa fees.

Additional support will be available to artists who received funding through FAJE for touring in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States. Presenters in Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, U.S. Virgin Islands, and West Virginia will be eligible to receive fee-subsidy for booking selected FAJE artists beginning in the 2012-2013 season.

French applicants should contact Emmanuel Morlet, FAJE Program Officer and Director Music Office, Cultural Services of the French Embassy at emmanuel.morlet@diplomatie.gouv.fr. American applicants should contact Adam Bernstein, Deputy Director, Programs at Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation at adam@midatlanticarts.org.

About Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation

Founded in 1979, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation ("MAAF") is one of six regional arts organizations in the United States. MAAF has a strong record of supporting jazz and international cultural exchange through such programs as Jazz.NEXT, Jazz Touring Network, BNY Mellon Jazz Living Legacy Award, Southern Exposure, USArtists International, and its regional performing arts touring programs American Masterpieces, ArtsCONNECT, Mid Atlantic Tours, PennPAT, and Special Presenters Initiatives. For more information about MAAF and its programs, visit www.midatlanticarts.org.

About FACE(French-American Cultural Exchange)

FACE is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting contemporary creative work in the context of French-American cultural and educational exchange. FACE administers programs and projects in dance, secondary and higher education, film, music, theater, and the visual arts. FACE is overseen by a Board of Trustees and works in partnership with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States. Visit: www.facecouncil.org

About the Cultural Services of the French Embassy

The Cultural Services of the French Embassy is dedicated to the promotion of French culture and language throughout the United States. With headquarters in New York, the Cultural Services also maintains regional offices in Washington, D.C. and other major cities in the U.S. It offers a broad spectrum of opportunities for the American public to learn about and experience French culture, in the fields of performing and visual arts, television and cinema, literature and humanities, and education. Visit: www.frenchculture.org

About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and the prevention of child maltreatment, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. Visit: <http://www.ddcf.org>

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