

June 8 - 24, 2008

Cultural Envoys

Cultural Envoy Dr. Gene Aitken, a jazz education and computer technology visionary, was awarded DownBeat Magazine's 2007 Jazz Educator of the Year and inducted into DownBeat's Hall of Fame. Dr. Aitken will work with faculty and students at the newly opened Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory (KJC), conducting workshops, lectures and classes, leading student ensembles and performing. Dr. Aitken will teach Jazz and explain how Jazz relates to U.S. culture and history. The average Nepali cannot afford a music education, but with the help of local and international donations, the KJC is able to offer subsidized tuition and scholarships to Nepali musicians. KJC is also an ardent supporter of the Nepal women's empowerment movement and offers special scholarships to Nepali women involved in music education.