



A Big Hello from Unity Academy, Iraq

Aspiring B-boys of Kirkuk
with Rick Camargo of HaviKoroDr. Gene Ailken-Donates Trumpet
to Basra Institute of Fine ArtsGrand Finale
at Suleimaniya, Iraq Gala

Welcome to the quarterly newsletter of American Voices.

The summer of 2008 was a flurry of activity with two [Unity Academy](#) sessions in Iraq reaching over 750 Iraqi youth, the successful debut of our [American Performing Arts Academy in Taiwan](#) and moving our Bangkok office to a much-improved new space.

American Voices also kept up a busy schedule of projects and programs ranging from Coco York at the Hue Festival in [Vietnam](#) and Jazz pianist Mike Del Ferro in [Togo, Senegal](#) and Mozambique to Hiplomacy programs in [Denmark](#) and Kyrgyzstan.

Our busy fall schedule includes our first-ever visits to Juba and Khartoum, Sudan and return programs in Kabul for the Daniel Pearl Music Festival. Other invitations include Broadway programs in Belarus and Turkey as well as a return to Iraq to work with youth in the cities of Rania and Duhok.

In May, we received funding from the Kurdistan Regional Government and through online donations to invite Ryan White of Nothin, Films (San Francisco, USA) to make a documentary film, Camp Unity, about our summer program for youth in Iraq. [Read more](#) about this exciting opportunity to spread the word about the work we are doing in Iraq.

Despite the turmoil in world markets and the uncertainty that seems to hang in the air everywhere, American Voices is moving forward with our Annual Funding Drive. Please consider a [donation](#) to support our essential cultural diplomacy work with youth in countries such as Iraq and [Afghanistan](#).



Children's Theater in Suleimaniya

Michael Parks Masterson
rehearses Rent in Taipei

FEATURED NEWS

Over 750 Young Participants in Unity Youth Performing Arts Academy 2008!

This year, s Unity Academy drew on the success of 2007 and the strong network of relationships we have built with educational institutions throughout Iraq over the past year to reach more youth than ever before. View [photos](#).

American Performing Arts Academy (APAA) Debuts in Taiwan

The first APAA program debuted in August in Taiwan on the campus of Taipei Municipal University of Education. Three week-long programs for hip-hop dance, American piano and musical theater had full enrollment and a highly talented student body. View [photos](#).

Executive Director,s Update

John Ferguson is preparing to travel to the United States, where he is an invited speaker on Cultural Diplomacy at Carnegie-Mellon University and the [University of Texas at Austin](#). In late October, he will travel to Afghanistan, Sudan, Iraq and Turkey in a six-week tour with musical theater and dance specialist Michael Parks Masterson.



Kirkuk and Halabja Violinists

Annual Drive Underway

Many thanks to the Friends of American Voices who made our first annual drive in 2007 such a success. Your \$18,000 in donations allowed us to keep the momentum of our Iraq programming going and helped us achieve the spectacular results of the Unity Academy 2008, where we reached 750 young Iraqi performing artists.

In 2008-2009 we will continue to reach out to young performing artists and audiences in some of the planet's most isolated places: Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan and more. Please help us keep the windows of communication open with countries emerging from isolation and conflict.

Your donation will allow us to continue our unique program of cultural diplomacy through training, joint performance opportunities for youth, gala concerts and donations of music scores and instruments. You can [make a donation via our Web site](#).

A Great Way to Learn More about American Voices: American Voices TV on YouTube!

This quarter's featured playlist is: Jazz Bridges Afghanistan http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=7ECD40FD8BD1A74E. Here you will find 12 music and documentary videos from our Jazz Bridges Afghanistan projects in Kabul in 2005 and in London and Frankfurt in 2007.



Audience at Jazz Bridges Gala, Kabul 2005



Isaac Baron in Copenhagen

PROGRAM UPDATES

Hiplomacy.

Isaac Baron and Rosie Pichon returned to [Denmark](#), where they were guests of the U.S. Embassy and the GAM3 program. As this goes to press, HaviKoro / Urgeworks of Houston is digging out from Hurricane Ike and preparing to depart for Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, where they will teach and perform with Kyrgyz break dancers and hip-hop artists for one week.



CoCo York Appears at the Hue Festival, Vietnam

Jazz Bridges

CoCo York was a huge hit at the [Hue Festival](#) in Vietnam.

Mike Del Ferro took Jazz Bridges programs to [Mozambique](#), [Togo](#) and [Senegal](#) three unique countries with three unique blends of jazz and local traditions.



Mike Del Ferro in Togo



UPCOMING PROJECTS AND EVENTS

- *Afghanistan, October 24 to 31: Daniel Pearl Music Festival, Kabul; John Ferguson and Michael Parks*



Masterson will perform and work with Afghan music and theater students.

- **Sudan, November 14 to 23:** *Variations on America: Music Dance and Theater program with youth in Juba and Khartoum.*
- **Iraq, November 24 to 30:** *Variations on America: Music Dance and Theater program with youth in Rania and Duhok, Northern Iraq.*
- **Turkey, December 1 to 21:** *Broadway in Ankara at Hacettepe University.*

For more information about our programs or to make a donation, contact us at:

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