

Behind the Iron Curtain: America's Jazz Ambassadors

More than simply providing a concert, the cello is the vehicle that delivers something so very unique. “You see a musician sitting with a cello, and you may immediately think ‘classical music,’ except this is so much more,” according to Alex Prizgintas, who, together with his cello, guitar pedals, and looping station, is an uncommon troubadour. “We give a show and not a concert, and that show is driven by the topic. With the Jazz Ambassadors, my off-stage narrator and I tackle the complicated topic of jazz musicians employed by the State Department to counter Russian propaganda about America’s racism. While a diverse mix of American Jazz musicians toured a variety of countries across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and Latin America, challenging the veracity of Russia’s racist accusations, black students back home in America were being sent to school accompanied by armed guards in states such as Arkansas. There was a disconnect, and this show provides context and content along with some engaging conversation.”

A Night In Tunisia: Dizzy Gillespie

Moonglow: Benny Goodman

What a Wonderful World: Louis Armstrong

Blue Rondo á la Turk: Dave Brubeck

Take Five: Dave Brubeck

‘Round Midnight: Thelonius Monk

So What: Miles Davis

Mack The Knife: Louis Armstrong