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ACS American Community Schools Athens

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A Night of Gospel, Spirituals and Christmas Jazz at the Arts Center at ACS

As the inaugural event of "American Festival 2012," a year-long celebration of American arts, culture and ideas, the Arts Center at ACS is proud to present "A Night of Gospel, Spirituals and Christmas Jazz" with Deborah Carter, accompanied by Dimos Dimitriadis on saxophone, George Kontrafouris on hammond organ and Nikos Kapilidis on drums on **Saturday, December 17, 2011**, at 8:30 p.m., at the Arts Center at ACS.

This is the first time where the American culture unites with the biggest names of Greek Jazz to create a spectacular event! One of the greatest vocalists in the US, described by the Music Maker magazine in the US as "absolutely top-class", Deborah Carter is one of the most dynamic vocalists in the jazz scene. She is accompanied by three exceptional Greek musicians and brings together the magic of Jazz with the spirit of the Holidays!

The concert is co-hosted by ACS Athens, the US Embassy, the Fulbright Foundation in Greece and the generous support of Amway. The concert is free of charge and open to the public. Seating will be on a first-come, first-seated basis. For more information, please call 210-63-93-200, ext. 320 or visit www.acs.gr.

ACS Athens Mission Statement:

ACS Athens is a student-centered international school, embracing American educational philosophy, principles and values. Through excellence in teaching and diverse educational experiences, ACS Athens challenges all students to realize their unique potential: academically, intellectually, socially and ethically -- to thrive as responsible global citizens.

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George Kontrafouris was born in Athens, Greece in 1967. He studied classical piano at the National Conservatory in Athens. At the age of 16, he turned his interest to jazz music and he followed up jazz improvised lessons with Markos Alexiou. He studied also with Jim Beard and Jarmo Savolainen. He holds a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's degree in Jazz Performance from Sibelius Academy in Finland.

He has performed as piano or organ player with many famous and outstanding musicians.

He has been teaching jazz piano and organ for several years in Athenaeum Conservatory in Greece and in Sibelius Academy in Finland and he currently belongs to the faculty of the Ionian University in Corfu. He is also the Artistic Director of the Tinos Jazz Festival.

Saxophonist, educator and Fulbright Scholar **Dimos Dimitriadis** was born in Thessaloniki, Greece. After studying piano and guitar, he started performing with one of the pioneering jazz groups in Greece.

Moving to the U.S., he earned his Bachelor of Music in Performance with honors (Cum Laude) at Berkley College of Music studying jazz saxophone, flute and composition. He later earned a Master of Arts in Music at Bennington College focusing on contemporary composition and fusing traditional Greek music with jazz improvisation.

During his 7 years stay in the U.S., he built his musical skills working with the legendary educator Joe Viola, and the powerful instrumentalists George Garzone, Jerry Bergonzi, and Hal Crook. He has shaped his personal vision for jazz during his subsequent extensive trips to Italy, France and Scandinavia, drawing inspiration from the diverse European cultures and the groundbreaking work of his mentor, the great soprano saxophonist Steve Lacy, as well as pianist Mal Waldron and trumpeter Bill Dixon.

Dimos Dimitriadis performs in many countries (USA, Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Sweden, Netherlands, Finland, Switzerland, Portugal, Poland, Croatia, Latvia, Bulgaria) while also being active on the Greek scene.

He is the founder of a unique Jazz and Improvisation Program at the Ionian University in Corfu where he is appointed Assistant Professor of Saxophone and Director of Jazz Studies, the first and only academic position given to a jazz musician in this country. He has taught jazz seminars at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in New York, the Bowling Green State University College of Musical Arts in Ohio, the Sibelius Academy Jazz Department in Finland, the Vienna Conservatory and Graz University for the Arts in Austria.

He is the Artistic Director of the Summer Jazz Academy and the Ionian Jazz Concerts in Corfu, organizing numerous concerts and seminars by international artists and a frequent contributor to the Greek "Jazz & Tzaz" magazine.



Nikos Kapilidis was born in Xanthi in 1955. His first musical Influences and his first encounter with Jazz came at the age of eight years old at his father's record store.

At the following years he attended music lessons for: Bouzouki, Accordion, Trumpet, Flute, Piano, Theory and at the age of thirteen he started playing drums with various pop Rock bands as the band " Ahatis " at '71 in the City Drama.

For several years, he was a member of the " Family band " with his father and his brothers playing Greek traditional music. During his carrier he had played with various bands in the styles of: Rock-Blues-Jazz-Fusion in various clubs in Greece, Switzerland, Germany and France. For the last seven years he has focused in the study of the "Greek Odd Rhythms "(5/8-7/8-9/8 etc) writing a book about this subject and forming the following bands: "Serious Fun" (1996), "Ebnus Jazz Quintet" (2000), and "The Jazz Utopia "(2001) creating music, based on these rhythms. He has also performed with many Greek jazz musicians and from around the world as well as with Greek composers and singers. He teaches at "Ars Nova" music school by Yiorgos Fakanas.

Vocalist **Deborah J. Carter** was born in the U.S.A. and grew up in Hawaii and Japan. She travels extensively performing in jazz festivals, jazz clubs, seminars, and radio and TV shows through Europe and Asia with her trio or as a guest with various formations; from solo pianists to large orchestras. While on tour, she has also given master classes, often sponsored by US embassies all over the world.

At a very young age Deborah began as a woodwind instrumentalist in Hawaii and later started learning music theory, arranging, and composition in her early teens in Japan. She continued her studies at the prestigious Berklee College of Music.

Deborah´s latest release, called "Blue Notes and Red Shoes", was recorded with her long-standing trio together with internationally renowned guest artists and is a prime example of her favorite genre 'metropolitan jazz'. Deborah also has four other solo CD's.

During her residency in Spain, she collaborated on CD's with Max Sunyer, Carles Benavent and Salvador Niebla adding vocals to their typical brand of Mediterranean jazz. She has also worked in a theater in Madrid, and then formed her own jazz quintet where she appeared in many jazz festivals in major cities in Iberia. She has been an invited guest on national TV and radio shows in addition to acquiring ample experience as a session singer for TV and radio commercials.

Besides working with her own group, Deborah also loves to sing the great jazz classics as a guest artist with a number of established European jazz orchestras.