

Home	About Us	Admissions	Academics
People	Giving		



Jazz Peru 2008 Artists Bios

The Gabriel Alegria Afro-Peruvian Sextet sponsored by Jazz Peru Internacional 2008 Artists

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Gabriel Alegria

Gabriel Alegria was born in Lima, Perú in 1970 into a very creative family. Gabriel's grandfather Ciro was Peru's most famous novelist and his father Alonso is Perú's most

acclaimed playwright. Today Gabriel is one of the most influential figures of the jazz music scene in Perú.

Musically Gabriel combines his personal approach to American jazz with a passionate interest and careful study of the music of black coastal Perú. He has contributed a uniquely Afro-Peruvian jazz music concept by incorporating and exploring the common African roots found in both styles.

Gabriel's most recent and varied performance credits as a trumpet player, composer and conductor span the globe and include in concert appearances and/or recordings with [Maria Schneider](#) , [Placido Domingo](#), [Ingrid Jensen](#), Tierney Sutton, Natalie Cole, [The Lima Philharmonic](#), The Peruvian National Symphony, [Bill Watrous](#), John Thomas, Russ Ferrante and [Alex Acuña](#) as well as concerts for the United Nations and various diplomatic missions from around the world. In May 2005 Gabriel conducted and recorded Didier Lockwood's jazz opera "Libertad" commissioned by Radio France and Opera Montpellier. He has conducted "hybrid" concerts featuring the rock band Frágil and Peru's National Symphony. Gabriel was also the subject of a documentary film about Afro-Peruvian music directed by Lonnie Goodwin. His web site www.gabrielalegria.com won the Webby award for "best navigation and content".

Gabriel holds a doctorate degree in jazz studies from the University of Southern California, a master's degree from the City University of New York and a bachelor's degree from Kenyon College. He is currently a clinical Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies at Steinhardt. From his faculty position at New York University and continues to work for the internationalization of Afro-Peruvian jazz music and education.

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