

# Jazz for the American Farm School



Brass section of The Jazz at Lincoln Center's Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra

In November, jazz riffs in Athens and Thessaloniki will delight music lovers and add to the American Farm School's scholarship coffers.

Keep your eyes peeled and your ears tuned for The Jazz at Lincoln Center's Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, who will be performing this month in Athens and Thessaloniki in aid of the Annual Scholarship Program at the American Farm School in Thessaloniki.

Led by the charismatic and immensely talented Arturo O'Farrill, the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra combines the best of the African and Latin music and dance traditions. As O'Farrill puts it, "Jazz and Latin have their roots in dance. Much of the turn-of-the-century New Orleans jazz was born in dance halls and bordellos and speak-easies. The same thing was happening in Latin music around the same time period in Havana." O'Farrill believes that "Dance music is very powerful because it unites the brain with the body. When it is well-crafted, dance music, in a very clever way, is the most consistent response to the dichotomy of mind and body. So when one listens to the music of the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, it's a synthesis of Africa, Europe and

the Americas ... of intellect and body and mind and spirit. And what better way to engage your feet without losing your mind than to listen to great jazz?"

In a lasting tribute to the progressive vision of its founder, Dr. John Henry House, the American Farm School of Thessaloniki (AFS), is one of the most progressive educational institutions in Southeast Europe. In an era where sustainable farming and environmental conservation are becoming an integral part of the new economy, AFS provides its nearly 300 secondary and post-secondary students with the tools they'll need to succeed in modern agricultural production, as well as the emerging agribusiness sector.

Proceeds from this month's jazz concerts will support the AFS Annual Scholarship Program, which enables young men and women from hundreds of towns and villages throughout Greece to become pioneers in the future of agriculture, food, and agrotourism.