



A Vision Fulfilled

Kimo Williams and 26 Musicians Travel To Vietnam

Supported by the Illinois Arts Council and the United States Vietnam Arts Program (USVAP), I am taking my ensemble "KIMOTION" to Vietnam June 1st through June 6th to do concerts and master classes.

This 26 member ensemble that I started in 1976 performs what I call Symphonic Big Band Fusion Music. We will be performing June 4th at the International Hue Festival in the ancient city of Hue on the grounds of the Citadel Imperial Palace.

We will also perform June 2nd in Ho Chi Minh City.

The overall vision of this tour is to provide an understanding of the melding of different American music forms and to engage the Vietnamese audience in this unique approach to hybrids of American Music.

The concerts will also feature Vietnamese instrumentalists as guest soloists, specifically my friend and fellow Berklee Alum, Vietnam's woodwind performer Tran Mân Tuấn and will include traditional Vietnamese instruments and instrumentalists.

Additionally, the Kimotion ensemble will be augmented by string players from the Ho Chi Minh City Symphony Orchestra. [Through these concerts, the Vietnamese musicians will be performing and interacting with US musicians as we will also create social interactions to foster artistic engagement.](#)

This tour will also include master classes on American Jazz and improvisation specifically as it relates to the cultural environments that jazz came out of. I hope through this tour I can begin the process of dissecting the melding of cultures through music.

As a soldier in Vietnam in 1970, I was so impacted by the Vietnamese cultural that it changed my life forever. Since 1990 I have been expressing that impact through my music writing symphonies, string quartets and jazz works based on the experiences on my tour of duty. My ultimate vision thinking back to his time in Vietnam was to replace "my M16" with "my music" and to expose as many other Americans as I can to the rich traditions and artistic paradigms of a culture we once called our enemy.

This tour is the culmination of all my artistic energy over the last 18 years...

I DO NEED YOUR HELP THOUGH! (USVAP) received a matching grant from the Illinois Arts council as they believe strongly in what I am doing. As always with not for profit programs, all is funding-driven and this is true with this tour. I have no commercial sponsors and I must raise additional dollars to offset the matching part of the grant. Many of you have donated (even that \$20.00 check helped Mary, thanks) and I appreciate your contribution.

Please donate to this project if you are able and I will insure that I recognize your generosity in all aspects relating to this project.

Please make a check payable to USVAP and send to:

USVAP
41 East 8th street
#2505
Chicago Il 60605

Your contributions are tax deductible and you will receive a letter stating that fact.

Or you can go to the USVAP web site <http://www.usvap.com> and click on donate.

You can find additional information about Kimotiun at
<http://www.kimotion.org>

Thank you in advance!

--

music to you
Kimo Williams