

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT IN MOROCCO INVITES
CHICAGO MUSICIAN MICHAEL J. MILES
FOR RETURN CONCERT TOUR

WHAT: At the invitation of the U.S. State Department in Morocco, Chicago musician, Michael Miles, will lead a 7-city concert tour of Morocco, collaborating with American & Moroccan musicians.

WHEN: January 25 through February 4, 2010

WHERE: 7 Moroccan cities---Casablanca, Marrakech, Beni Mellal, etc.

At the invitation of the U.S. State Dept. in Morocco, Michael Miles will be returning to Morocco for 7-city concert tour. Miles is a Chicago-based musician, composer and educator. He is recognized as one of the country's leading innovators on the 5-string banjo and is artist-in-residence at the famed Old Town School of Folk Music. Also a vocalist and guitarist, Miles has earned tremendous critical acclaim, collaborating with numerous world class musicians.

Miles will be touring with Chicago-based drummer, Tony Dale, as well as Moroccan multi-instrumentalist, Abdellah El Miry. The tour includes additional collaborations with local musicians along its route, including a special event with world-renowned oud player, Haj Younes of Casablanca.

“His playing is enough to make me want
to learn the banjo all over again.”
--- Pete Seeger

“Everything Miles plays is worth savoring.”
--- Howard Reich, Chicago Tribune

A RETURN INVITATION

Miles toured Morocco in 2002, just after the U.S. Senate approved the invasion of Iraq. In the sometimes tense atmosphere, Miles proved over and over again the true power of how music can bring people together. Standing ovations were the norm as the Moroccan public demonstrated their appreciation for Miles' music, words and presence.

“This was great, wonderful. I have so many stories to report to both Washington
and to the Moroccan press. To everyone, you brought so much joy.”
--- Abdelkrim Raddadi, Cultural Affairs Specialist, U.S. State Dept. Morocco

SISTER CITIES: CASABLANCA & CHICAGO

Chicago has a sister city relationship with Casablanca, Morocco where exchanges of culture and resources enrich both participants. While in Morocco, in cooperation with U.S. State Dept. & the Chicago Sister Cities committee, Miles will perform for underserved children in Casablanca.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COLLABORATION

In addition to the concerts planned, Miles will visit Moroccan schools in preparation for a musical exchange between Chicago public school students and Moroccan students via web conferencing. The student exchange is a part of the “Global Voices” program created by Arlene Crewdson, former Executive Director and founder of Chicago's Pegasus Players Theatre.