



The Music Of Diplomacy

*The international artistry of
Darryl John Kennedy*

*“He’s a cultural ambassador of the first order.
He’s the only American, who has had such a successful television and radio schedule here.”*
James Chrisenger, Cultural Attaché for the U.S. Embassy in Prague, Czech Republic.

Many Americans have not heard of Darryl John Kennedy, but his independent ambassadorial work overseas for the United States demonstrates that individual American citizens can also be effective leaders in the international arena. Originally from Wisconsin, Darryl Kennedy is a composer and multi-instrumentalist. With concerts and recordings around the world, the self-taught renaissance man has traveled to 50 countries, is a student of numerous languages, plays 16 instruments, and has produced over 160 CDs for various artists in virtually every musical style.

What distinguishes Kennedy from other US artists? He represents America as an independent cultural ambassador; a kind of musical diplomat who uses the arts and culture as a strategy for enhancing the image of the United States. “Better cultural relations make better foreign policy,” says Kennedy. Utilizing his system of diplomacy which creates friendships even between opposing cultures, he believes that many of today’s international conflicts can be resolved. Kennedy says that his strategy is based on relating to the subconscious historical and cultural emotionalism of societies.

Darryl performs extensively around the world. His music video “Never Say Goodbye” was seen by over 80 million people on the Russian National Program VSGLAT. He’s performed at Moscow’s Blue Bird Jazz Club with Russian pianist Michael Alperin and also with Armenian musician Sergei Monokian in Red Square. In Azerbaijan, Darryl entertained for the former Soviet Red Army. Along with international TV shows and interviews on Radio Prague and Radio Moscow, he recorded the CD “Czechmate” with big band arranger Kamil Hala, and the CD “Energy” with the jazz rock group “Hot Line.”

While performing at the Karlovy Vary jazz festival in the Czech Republic, Darryl met and invited Dutch pianist Michael Del Ferro to the US where they recorded the CD “Nice Changes” released on Kennedy’s record label DKM. Kennedy was also the first American allowed to perform in concert at the KGB Ministry of Interior in Moscow. Kennedy’s Asian voyages include performing in Indonesia with guitarist Yopi Item in Jakarta, in Korea at the Blue Moon Jazz Club, in the Philippines with film star Kokoy Loren, and in Prague with Japanese dancer Min Tanaka. In South America, he studied Spanish and Brazilian orchestrations that he used in the CD “Your Voice in the Night” featuring Mexican vocalist Lupita Bejar. He also was a guest performer with the Samyoung Orchestra in South Korea.

The Wisconsin television program “Look-In,” featured Darryl performing the haunting song “Jerusalem,” honoring the slain Israeli leader Itzac Rabin. Kennedy loves to perform with musicians from all around the world. Darryl remarks, “I was born into the music business; my first four steps were in tempo.” In 2006, Kennedy traveled extensively in the Middle East including The UAE, Turkey, Israel and Egypt. He recently composed and produced the CD “Voices from the Sand,” the first joint American and Egyptian production of its kind, and spoke regarding this success at the United Nations with the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy.

Darryl’s quests for discovery and adventure have also taken him scuba-diving with sharks in the Galapagos Islands, into bat caves in Bali, skydiving, expeditions down the Amazon, and digging in ancient archaeological sites. “Demonstrating leadership abroad, on behalf of the United States, is my mission,” says Darryl.

In an increasingly ambiguous global political environment, the story of cultural ambassador Darryl John Kennedy, gains global momentum.