

Arts & Leisure

The Courier-Journal | courier-journal.com/features

Books I-5
 Show Clock I-4
 This Week I-4

I
 Carla Carlton, editor
 ccarlton@courier-journal.com
 582-4684, phone
 582-4665, fax
SUNDAY
 AUGUST 7, 2005



Photos courtesy of Mike Tracy

University of Louisville music professor Mike Tracy, second from left, said students in Estonia "were like sponges, soaking up every bit of information about jazz I could give them." He helped the Estonian Music Academy in Tallinn establish a jazz program last year.

JAZZ AMBASSADOR

U of L's Tracy takes music abroad

By Rick Mattingly
 Special to The Courier-Journal

Music professor Mike Tracy was looking forward to having some extra time at home to practice during his sabbatical from the University of Louisville this past academic year.

Instead, he ended up becoming something of an American jazz ambassador.

His travels began in June 2004 with a trip to Brazil to teach at the Universidade de Brasilia and to visit the Universidade Estadual de Campinas in preparation for an upcoming exchange program. In March, he visited Poland to participate in the 75th anniversary of the Akademia Muzyczna im. Karola Szymanowskiego, a music school that has

close ties to U of L.

His biggest project, however, involved spending several weeks in Estonia, where he helped the Estonian Music Academy in Tallinn establish a jazz program. Tracy also took advantage of a unique opportunity to play jazz in Russia.

"I hadn't intended on doing any of that," said Tracy, who is director of the Jamey Abersold Jazz Studies department at U of L. "But those experiences really recharged my batteries and rekindled my love for what I do."

The seeds for Tracy's trip to Estonia were planted during the 2003-04 holiday season, when a group of music educators from that country visited

INSIDE

- ▶ Where Tracy and his trio perform.
- ▶ Places to hear jazz.



In March, Tracy performed at the Yaroslavl Jazz Festival in Russia.



In March, Tracy visited Poland to participate in the 75th anniversary of the Akademia Muzyczna im. Karola Szymanowskiego in Katowice.