



Association of Performing Arts Presenters

## *Visa Delays & Effects on the Performing Arts*

Sandra Gibson

President & CEO, Arts Presenters

- 7,000+ Presenting Organizations in the U.S. and thousands more worldwide
- \$8.5B in Contributed and Earned Revenue
- 300+ Million Audience-goers
- Dance, Music, Theater and live Attractions



University Musical Society, MI





Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Florida

We envision a world where all people can experience the transformative power of live performance.



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Shanghai Dance Company, China

2002 Survey: 75% Presenting Foreign Artists

2005 Survey: 60% Presenting Foreign Artists



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➤ Cultural Exchange is a vital part of foreign policy.

➤ Visa process needs reform to encourage cultural commerce.



Viva Nabrada, Brazil



# 3 Principal Concerns:

- **State Department**

- Wait Times for Interviews

- **USCIS**

- Lengthy Processing Times

- **DHS**

- Improved Oversight Needed



# Recommendations:



The Spirit of Cambodia

- **State:** Multiple Consulate Interview Locations
- **USCIS:** Upgraded PPS process for nonprofit arts organizations
- **DHS:** Leadership in managing the process



# www.ArtistsfromAbroad.org



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the homepage of ArtistsFromAbroad.org. The browser's address bar shows the URL. The website header features the logo "ArtistsFromAbroad" in blue and yellow, a search bar with "10 results" shown, and links for "DOWNLOAD PDF", "FREE ACROBAT READER", and "PRINT PAGE". A large banner below the header features an image of the Statue of Liberty and the text "Complete Guide to Immigration & Tax Requirements for Foreign Guest Artists". A navigation menu includes "Immigration Procedures", "Tax Requirements", "About", and "News Flash". The main content area contains three paragraphs of text. On the right side, there is a sidebar with logos for the American Symphony Orchestra League, the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, and a note that the site is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Artists organizations are faced with increasing challenges when bringing international artists into the United States. Since the events of September 11 and the implementation of Premium Processing Service, navigating the process of obtaining nonimmigrant visas and understanding tax regulations remain the top hurdles to presenting artists from abroad.

Recognizing these challenges, the [American Symphony Orchestra League](#) and [Association of Performing Arts Presenters](#) have consulted with nationally-recognized experts to create *Artists from Abroad* - the most complete and up-to-date online resource for foreign guest artists, their managers, and performing arts organizations. Immigration attorney Jonathan Ginsburg and tax experts Albert Schibani and Peter Kotsatos have authored indispensable guidance featured on this site, and we provide the forms and web links you need to steer through the process of engaging guest artists reliably, efficiently, and lawfully.

Whether you are a novice or veteran of the immigration and tax process, reviewing the site in its entirety, and referring back as we update the materials, will pay dividends. Changes will be made regularly to reflect new rules and procedural changes at the U.S.

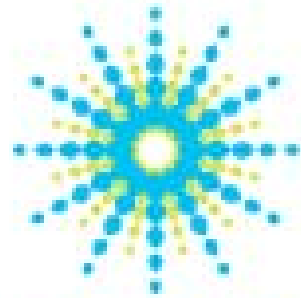
AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA LEAGUE

Association of Performing Arts Presenters

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**Association of Performing Arts Presenters**

[www.artspresenters.org](http://www.artspresenters.org)