JAZZ MUSIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE: Conversation & Concert
Tuesday, April 3, 2018 from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Conversation at 7:00 p.m.; Performance to follow at 8:30 p.m.
Old Chapel Great Hall, University of MA, Amherst, MA
Free admission, but tickets required. Fineartscenter.com
www.valleyjazznetwork.org

JAZZ MUSIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE: A Conversation & Concert
featuring Toshi Reagon, Christian Scott and Helen Sung

Through their work, musicians often focus or dedicate their talent on giving voice to civil rights and social change, strengthening the breadth and depth of social activism. On April 3rd, the Valley Jazz Network hosts JAZZ MUSIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE a Conversation & Concert creating a public platform for sharing and understanding how some artists use their talent to forward social issues and contribute a positive impact on society. At the table will be three world-class musicians: renown activist, lyricist and singer Toshi Reagon, trumpeter Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah, and Asian American pianist Helen Sung.

Toshi Reagon is an inspiring musician, singer and fierce human rights & gay rights activist. She has performed and worked with many artists in every genre—blues, rock, R&B, country, folk and jazz, and well-known for her work with her mom, Bernice Johnson Reagon, founder of Sweet Honey in the Rock. Her most recent project is an adaptation of Octavia Butler’s Parable of the Sower. Christian Scott’s musical selections are inspired by his experience with human rights, community-building and music in his native New Orleans. Christian is the nephew of famed saxophonist Donald Harrison, and is a big chief in the Mardi Gras Black Indian tradition. Scott is well known for being the trailblazer of the “stretch music”—a jazz rooted musical form that attempts to “stretch” jazz’s rhythmic, melodic and harmonic conventions to encompass as many other musical forms, languages and cultures as possible. Helen Sung is an accomplished pianist and composer, a graduate of the New England Conservatory and winner of the Kennedy Center’s Mary Lou Williams Jazz Piano Competition. She toured southern Africa as a U.S. State Department Jazz Ambassador, and she performed on Terri Lyne Carrington's Grammy-winning album The Mosaic Project, that featured an all-female group, highlighting the accomplishments of female artists.

This is a rare and unique event, bringing together these world-class musicians who will share the spotlight together for the very first time! Imagine what could transpire!

We start with the conversation first at 7 pm. It is interactive and will allow the audience a chance to share their thoughts on music and social change as well gain knowledge, insights on methodology and inspiration from this panel of very distinguished, creative, socially aware and dedicated working musicians. Then at 8:30 p.m. we present a concert performance to witness that methodology in action! The performance begins at approximately 8:30 pm. Helen Sung will take to the stage first, followed by Christian Scott and his band to end the evening.
This event is happening in the newly-renovated Old Chapel Great Hall at the University of Massachusetts. The Old Chapel is located between the Tower Library and Memorial Hall. This is a free event but due to limited capacity, tickets are required.

Tickets available in person at the Fine Arts Center Box Office; online at fineartscenter.com and by phone 413.545.2511 or 888-999-UMAS. Unclaimed tickets will be released to the public at 6:45 pm on the day of the event.

SPONSORS
JAZZ MUSIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE is presented by the Valley Jazz Network and the UMass Fine Arts Center with generous support from: the UMass Office of Equity and Inclusion, UMass Campus Climate Improvement Grant Fund; the UMass Chancellor’s Office and the WEB Dubois Department of Afro American Studies; the UMass Center for Multicultural Advancement and Student Success (CMASS); the Five College Lecture Fund; Amherst College Music Department; Mount Holyoke College Division of Student Life; Hampshire College; and UMass Department of Public Policy.