

Contact: Glenn Siegel, Ken Irwin, (413) 545-2876
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THE 2010 MAGIC TRIANGLE JAZZ SERIES PRESENTS:

WILLIAM PARKER AND HAMID DRAKE WITH CONNY BAUER

The Magic Triangle Jazz Series, produced by WMUA, 91.1FM and the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, begins its 21st season on **Thursday, Feb. 25**, at **Bezanson Recital Hall**, with an 8:00pm performance by **William Parker**, bass, **Hamid Drake**, drums, and special guest, **Conny Bauer**, trombone. This year the Magic Triangle Jazz Series celebrates William Parker and Hamid Drake -- respected around the world for their commitment and musicality -- with three concerts, featuring special guests.

"William Parker and Hamid Drake are the best rhythm section in jazz right now," says *Alternative Press*. This has been true for 15 years. "Not since Don Cherry and Ed Blackwell joined forces have two musicians so organically wedded world-music influences with free jazz," writes *Jazziz*.

William Parker, whom the *Village Voice* has called, "the most consistently brilliant free jazz bassist of all time," was born in the Bronx, and by age 20 was performing with Don Cherry, Bill Dixon, Milford Graves, Billy Higgins and Sunny Murray. In 1980 he became a member of the Cecil Taylor Unit, in which he played a prominent role for over a decade. "The creative heir of Jimmy Garrison and Paul Chambers," concludes *The Penguin Guide to Jazz*, "Parker has emerged as one of the most inventive bassist/leaders since Mingus." *Time Out New York* proclaimed William Parker one of "the 50 greatest New York musicians of all time."

Since the late 1990s, **Hamid Drake** has been widely regarded as one of the best percussionists in improvised music. Incorporating Afro-Cuban, Indian, and African percussion instruments and influence, in addition to using the standard trap set, Drake has collaborated extensively with top free jazz improvisers Peter Brotzmann, Don Cherry and Pharoah Sanders, among others. Born in Monroe, LA, in 1955, Drake moved to Chicago, where he was mentored by Fred Anderson.

Parker and Drake invite the reknown German trombonist **Konrad "Conny" Bauer** to perform in Amherst. "Bauer has mastered the wide range of techniques available to the contemporary trombonist," writes John Corbett, "as well as the web of genres in which the instrument is imbricated." Konrad "Conny" Bauer was born in 1943 in Halle an der Saale, Germany. Since 1973 he has performed around the world with major improvisers such as Peter Brötzmann, Han Bennink, Butch Morris, Anthony Braxton and George Lewis. His big band experience includes stints with Globe Unity Orchestra, NDR Big Band and London Jazz Composers Orchestra. On Wednesday evening, February 24, Bauer will perform a short solo concert at the Amherst Cinema before a screening of "Lights From Afar", the 1998 German film that he scored.

The Magic Triangle Jazz Series continues with the Raining on the Moon Ensemble (March 25) and Parker and Drake with Evan Parker (April 15). Tickets are \$12/general public and \$7/students and are available through the Fine Arts Center Box Office, 1-800-999-UMAS. *The Magic Triangle Jazz Concert Series is produced by WMUA-FM and the Fine Arts Center, and funded by the UMass Arts Council and an ECSA grant. Additional support from the UMass Hotel at the Campus Center.*

