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THE 2010 MAGIC TRIANGLE JAZZ SERIES PRESENTS:

WILLIAM PARKER AND HAMID DRAKE WITH EVAN PARKER

The Magic Triangle Jazz Series, produced by WMUA, 91.1FM and the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, concludes its 21st season on Thursday, April 15, at Bezanson Recital Hall with an 8:00pm performance by **William Parker**, bass, **Hamid Drake**, drums, and special guest, **Evan Parker**, tenor and soprano saxophone.

This year the Magic Triangle Jazz Series celebrates this dynamic duo -- 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 brilliant saxophonist **Evan Parker** to join them. Evan Parker may be the most formidable saxophonist since John Coltrane. "If genius is the sustained application of intelligence," writes Richard Cook, "then Evan Parker merits the epitaph." Parker has worked with Derek Bailey, Tony Oxley, Alexander von Schlippenbach and virtually every other important European innovator of the last 45 years. "Evan Parker is that rare bird of contemporary playing: a thoroughly individual voice," writes *AllAboutJazz*. "Parker has developed a personal vocabulary that is simultaneously instantly recognizable and adaptable to the most varied of situations."

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 the UMass Hotel at the Campus Center.

