

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate release through July 18, 2008

(visit the pressroom at www.jazzinjuly.com to download photographs, news release and bios)

JAZZ IN JULY PERFORMANCES

Immerse Yourself In Our 27 Year Jazz Legacy!

Jazz in July (July 7 – July 18) brings together talented musicians from around the world to train with the country's most respected jazz artists for two weeks of intensive study in improvisation every summer on the Amherst campus of the University of Massachusetts. Public performances and lectures by the artist faculty, and performances featuring our participants are integral to the program mix.

JAZZ IN JULY ALLSTARS

We've expanded to two Thursday evening performances for 2008! From the world's most famous concert stages to annual midsummer appearances on the UMass campus, the line-up is spectacular.

Bowker Auditorium, 7:30 pm, Thursday, July 10: ***The Con Alma Trio Featuring the Five College All Stars*** Jeff Holmes (piano), Genevieve Rose (bass), Gregory Caputo (drums); with Fred Tillis (soprano saxophone), Bob Ferrier (guitar), and Bruce Diehl (tenor saxophone), and ***The Geri Allen Trio*** Geri Allen (piano), Avery Sharpe (bass), Steve Johns (drums); with Yamaha-sponsored Dana Leong (trombone and cello).

Bowker Auditorium, 7:30 pm, Thursday, July 17: ***Sheila Jordan and Her Trio*** Sheila Jordan (vocals), Ray Gallon (piano), Genevieve Rose (bass); with Catherine Jensen-Hole (vocals), and Jeff Holmes (trumpet), and ***The Billy Taylor Trio*** Billy Taylor (piano), Chip Jackson (bass), Winard Harper (drums); with John Blake (violin).

Artist bios are available at www.jazzinjuly.com. Tickets are: \$20 general public (a \$5 discount is available if you purchase tickets to both shows at the same time), \$10 students and seniors – available in advance from the FAC box office, 413-545-2511, or 1-800-999-UMAS, and at the door.

FACULTY LECTURE PERFORMANCES

Jazz in July also invites jazz fans to attend ***Lecture and Performance Series*** events held Monday through Thursday, July 7 – 10 and July 14 – 17 from 3:15 pm – 4:30pm in Bowker Auditorium. Every "lecture" features one or more faculty members expanding on his or her insights and approaches to

topics within the broader scope of what is jazz. A complete list of topics and descriptions can be found on www.jazzinjuly.com. Tickets are: \$10 per lecture, \$50 for all eight.

STUDENT PERFORMANCES

Club Jazz in July is back on Wednesdays July 9 and 16 from 7 to 10 pm at the Marriott Center on the 11th floor of the Campus Center. Club Jazz in July features our talented students - jazz vocalists and small combo jazz complemented by a cash bar and complimentary table snacks. \$5 Cover Charge.

Jamsations! features performances by Jazz in July participants who set the groove for a daylong concert of instrumental and vocal jazz in Bowker Auditorium, Fridays, July 11 and July 18 from 9 am - 4 pm. Concerts are free - giving patrons, family and friends a chance to hear tomorrow's top jazz talent.

For 27 years, JAZZ IN JULY has been a summer oasis for the performance and study of jazz improvisation – a special place where the music is created and studied. We've been inspiration to hundreds of musicians from around the world, an illustrious network of former participants including jazz vocalists Nnenna Freelon, Tierney Sutton, Paula West, Sonya Kitchell and Paula Cole, guitarist (Phish) Trey Anastasio, Tony-nominated actress (The Lion King) and singer Tsidii LeLoka, plus jazz drummers Andres Patrick Forero, Daniel Freedman, Alvester Garnett, pianist Jason Lindner, bassist/composer Kevin O'Neal, alto saxophonist Myron Walden, and others. Jazz in July gives participants from diverse musical backgrounds the opportunity to join with other musicians in lectures, combos, master classes, film screenings, performances and jam sessions. It is this holistic design that gives Jazz in July its respected place in the world of music education.

Jazz in July is a program of the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst, sponsored in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Falcetti Music, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, University Catering, and the Department of Music & Dance. Community partners include: Community Music School of Springfield, Greenfield Community College, Holyoke Community College, Northampton Community Music School, and the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts High School. For more information, or to arrange interviews with participating artist-educators, contact Mark Baszak at 413-545-3530 or mbaszak@admin.umass.edu.