

Contact: Glenn Siegel, Ken Irwin, (413) 545-2876
www.fineartscenter.com/magictriangle

THE 2007 MAGIC TRIANGLE JAZZ SERIES PRESENTS:

Roscoe Mitchell Chicago Trio

The Magic Triangle Jazz Series, produced by WMUA, 91.1FM and the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, concludes its 18th season on Thursday, April 26, 2007, in Bezanson Recital Hall at 8:00pm with the **Roscoe Mitchell Chicago Trio**, featuring **Roscoe Mitchell**, reeds, **Harrison Bankhead**, bass, and **Vincent Davis**, drums.

One of the top saxophonists to come out of Chicago in the mid-'60s, Roscoe Mitchell is a strong and consistently adventurous improviser. He has recorded 87 albums and has written over 250 compositions ranging from classical to contemporary, from free jazz to ornate chamber music. His instrumental expertise includes the entire saxophone family, from the soprano to the bass saxophone, as well as clarinet, oboe, flute and piccolo.

“Roscoe Mitchell's improvisations exercise extraordinary discipline and intellectual rigor,” writes Chris Kelsey, in the All Music Guide. “He's at once a patient and impulsive improviser, prone to alternating episodes of order and chaos, clarity and complexity. He is a technically superb - if idiosyncratic - saxophonist. Whether playing soft or loud, slow or fast, Mitchell's playing is invariably suffused with passion and intensity.”

An icon of avant-garde jazz, Roscoe Mitchell, now 66, is a founding member of both the Art Ensemble of Chicago, one of most radical and influential jazz ensembles of the past 30 years, and the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, the most successful musician-run collective in the country.

He has recorded as a leader for Delmark, Nessa, Sackville, Moers Music, Black Saint, and Silkheart in settings ranging from large ensembles to unaccompanied solo concerts, and has held teaching positions at the University of Illinois, the California Institute of the Arts, and the AACM school.

“Mitchell is a genuine original,” writes Francis Davis, “a musician determined to go on digging in ground he himself helped to break.”

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, Student Affairs Cultural Enrichment Fund, Alumni Association and Commuter Area Government. Additional support from: Campus Center Hotel and 88.5 WFCR, Public Radio for Western New England.