

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Mark Baszak at (413) 545-3530

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

Immerse Yourself In Our 27-Year Jazz Legacy!

Jazz in July Summer Music Programs July 7 - 18, 2008

The Fine Arts Center is now accepting applications to the 27th annual **Jazz in July Summer Music Programs** (July 7 - 18, 2008), the renowned jazz education, performance and improvisation program held at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Jazz in July is a special place where jazz history is studied and created. Every summer for the last 26 years, the all-stars of jazz come together to school the next generation of up-and-coming jazz musicians. For many years, the legendary percussionist Max Roach taught on our faculty, sharing his knowledge about the music and musicians of the bebop era that he helped define. Our tradition of honoring the past by bringing it into the present continues in our 27th year.

Study, perform, and teach jazz improvisation within three exceptional programs of study: instrumental ensembles, vocal soloists with trios, and teacher training. Our programs are complemented with performance/lectures, master classes, jam sessions and faculty and student performances.

2008 faculty include: **Geri Allen** piano; **John Blake** violin; **Gregory Caputo** drums; ***Bruce Diehl** saxophone; ***Bob Ferrier** guitar; **Ray Gallon** piano; ***Willie Hill** saxophone; **Mark Holovnia** drums; ***Jeff Holmes** trumpet/piano; ; **Chip Jackson** bass; ***Catherine Jensen-Hole** vocals; **Ingrid Jensen** trumpet; **Steve Johns** drums; **Sheila Jordan** vocals; **Dana Leong** trombone/cello; **Genevieve Rose** bass; **Esperanza Spalding** bass; **Billy Taylor** piano; and ***Frederick Tillis** saxophone; **Richard Whittle** piano (*resident faculty).

Originally modeled after New York's "Jazzmobile" program, the **Instrumental Ensemble Program** emphasizes individual improvisation on all instruments. Participants are assigned to small combos (5 – 8 members) as well as the big band (9 – 22 members) coached by the artist faculty, and master classes according to applied instrument.

The **Vocal Jazz Soloists with Trios Program** offers singers a relaxed and attentive environment to explore vocal improvisation, jazz phrasing and rhythms and preparing lead sheets. Personal coaching and master classes combine with rehearsal and performance opportunities accompanied by two in-residence instrumental trios.

A one-week **Teacher Training Program** (July 14 – 18) is designed for music educators interested in teaching methods and materials related to teaching jazz improvisation. In addition to attending lectures, master classes, and observing/critiquing student and faculty performances, afternoon sessions address various topics of jazz education and jazz program development. Teachers may also attend any of our other programs the week of July 7 – 11.

There are several other add-on options specifically designed for participants working toward re-certification or professional development, including graduate-level academic credit, Massachusetts Department of Education-authorized Professional Development Points (PDP's), and/or tuition waivers based on recruiting students to Jazz in July.

For more information, including an on-line application, a video about Jazz in July, faculty bios, links to artist faculty websites, and much more, visit our website: www.jazzinjuly.com; email: jazzinjuly@acad.umass.edu; or call: 413 545 3550.

Faculty and student alums include: **Trey Anastasio, Horace Boyer, Joanne Brackeen, Freddie Bryant, Jay Clayton, Paula Cole, Ted Dunbar, Nnenna Freelon, Russell Gunn, Winard Harper, Sonya Kitchell, Yusef Lateef, Tsidii LeLoka, Jason Lindner, Max Roach, Avery Sharpe, Myron Walden, Paula West** and **Mark Whitfield**.

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