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THE 2006 MAGIC TRIANGLE JAZZ SERIES PRESENTS:

Ernest Dawkins' New Horizon Ensemble

The Magic Triangle Jazz Series, produced by WMUA, 91.1FM and the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, concludes its 17th season on Thursday, April 27, in Bezanson Recital Hall at 8:00pm with a performance by **Ernest Dawkins' New Horizons Ensemble**. The band is: **Maurice Brown**, trumpet; **Steve Berry**, trombone; **Darius Savage**, bass; **Isaiah Spencer**, drums; and the leader on alto and tenor saxophone.

This Chicago quintet includes members of the third generation of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM), the seminal musician-based, self-help organization. Since its founding in 1978, New Horizons has drawn on Chicago's history as a center for electric blues, rhythm and blues and, more recently, as a center for the cultural ferment of the '60s that produced the stunning array of musicians affiliated with the AACM.

The Chicago Tribune called the bands' 1993 debut recording, *South Side Street Songs* (Silkheart Records), "...a celebratory, life-affirming work, a profound addition to the avant-garde repertory..."

A past president of the AACM and a teacher in Chicago public schools since 1989, Dawkins exemplifies a continuing dedication to the continuity of the city's musical traditions. He grew up on Chicago's South Side and quickly started to consume this legacy. (He remembers hearing Anthony Braxton practicing in a building adjacent to his house.) He started playing bass and conga drums when he was 12. After hearing his father's recordings of Lester Young, he quickly became a saxophonist and came under the tutelage of AACM members. Dawkins has a Masters degree in Music Education from Governors State University and has studied at Vandercook and AACM Schools of Music.

Dawkins has worked with a myriad of music greats which include: Ramsey Lewis, Muhal Richard Abrams, Lester Bowie, Edward Wilkerson, Jr., Henry Threadgill, Amina Claudine Myers, Anthony Braxton, Jack McDuff, Don Moye, Jerry Butler, and The Dells.

"They (New Horizons Ensemble) are a marvelous example of just how the music has richly absorbed the impact of history, events and the moment," wrote L. A. Emenari III in the Chicago Citizen Newspapers. "These are men who capture the passion and glory of an era - in just a fragment, in just a second of artistic virtue."

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.

