

## NEWS RELEASE

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## JAZZ IN JULY: Celebrating 25 Years of Great Jazz

The Fine Arts Center is now accepting applications to the 25<sup>th</sup> annual **Jazz in July Summer Music Programs** (July 10 - 21, 2006), the renowned jazz education and performance program held at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. For a quarter century, Jazz in July has been the place where age and experience meets youth and expectation, and where opportunities abound to discover powerful forces in the legacy of American music. Jazz in July teaches improvisation to talented musicians of all ages and in various stages of training and musical backgrounds.

This year's programs will focus on three concentrations. The artist faculty of the **Instrumental Small Combo Program**, and **Vocal Jazz Soloists with Trios Program** offer diverse approaches to teaching and performing jazz, and provide individual attention because of smaller size ensembles. Our **Teacher Training Program** offers music educators a special opportunity to learn more about teaching jazz in the classroom. Because instrumental and vocal programs run at the same time, all participants will be able to join with other participants for lectures, master classes, jam sessions, and performances.

The two-week **Instrumental Small Combo Program (July 10 – 21)**, led by the former Billy Taylor Trio, (Billy Taylor, piano; Chip Jackson, bass; Steve Johns, drums) emphasizes individual improvisation within small instrumental combos. Participants are assigned to combos that are coached by the artist faculty and attend master classes according to applied instrument. Faculty artists also includes: John Blake, violin; Bob Ferrier, guitar; and

University resident faculty members: Willie Hill, saxophone; Jeff Holmes, piano/trumpet; Adam Kolker, saxophone; David Sporny, trombone; and Frederick Tillis, saxophone.

The two-week **Vocal Jazz Soloists with Trios Program (July 10 – 21)** offers vocalists a supportive environment to explore concepts of jazz phrasing and rhythms, preparing lead sheets, vocal improvisation and scat singing. Coaching and master classes with Sheila Jordan and Catherine Jensen-Hole combine with rehearsal and performance opportunities accompanied by professional instrumental trios.

The **Teacher Training Program (July 17 – 21)** is designed for music educators interested in teaching methods and materials, as well as practical approaches to the study of improvisation. In addition to opportunities to observe and attend student and faculty performances, master classes, and jazz theory/history lectures, UMass resident faculty members David Sporny and Catherine Jensen-Hole will offer special sessions for teachers regarding methodology in jazz. Music teachers also have the option to attend the instrumental or vocal program the week of July 10 – 14, and can elect other options, including: graduate level academic credit, Massachusetts Department of Education-authorized Professional Development Points (PDP's), and/or tuition waivers based on their help in recruiting students to Jazz in July.

For more information, including an application, visit our website: [www.jazzinjuly.com](http://www.jazzinjuly.com); write: Jazz in July, 10 Curry Hicks, 100 Hicks Way, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003-9300; or phone: 413.545.3550.

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