

NEWS RELEASE



UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center
Magic Triangle Jazz Series
www.fineartscenter.com/magictriangle

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 27, 2007

WHAT: Warren Smith

WHEN: Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at 8:15pm

WHERE: Bezanson Recital Hall

IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to <http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerwide/pressRoom>

(Percussionist Warren Smith - featured on over 2,000 recordings - has led one of the richest, most varied careers in music.)

The Solos & Duos Series, produced by the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, will begin its 6th season with a rare solo concert by percussionist **Warren Smith** on **Wednesday, September 26**, in **Bezanson Recital Hall** at **8:15pm**.

Percussionist Warren Smith - featured on over 2,000 recordings - has led one of the richest, most varied careers in music. He might be the only man alive who has played with Nat Cole, Harry Partch and Charles Mingus, as well as Janis Joplin, Aretha Franklin and Barbra Streisand. He has worked extensively in studios and Broadway pit bands, is a life-long music educator and has a long list of credits in both the straight ahead and avant-garde jazz worlds. "Warren Smith's drumming is near perfection," writes All About Jazz.

"Among percussionists only Max Roach has explored as many colors as Smith does here, but even he has never done it all on one set", writes Cadence Magazine about Smith's Mappleshade release, *Cat's Are Stealing My Shit*, "a brilliant and highly recommended work."

Born in Chicago, Warren I. Smith entered the professional music world at 14, working first in various family bands in the late 1940's, and later with the legendary Captain Walter Dyett's concert and marching bands. He moved to New York in 1957 and completed his Masters at the Manhattan School of Music in 1958. His first jazz gig in New York was with Kenny Burrell at Minton's Playhouse, and from 1960-1972 worked regularly with Johnny Richards' big band.

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At the same time, he was an integral part of the Motown scene. He played on all the Gladys Knight and the Pips' 45 hit singles; performed on numerous occasions with Dionne Warwick; did several tours, recording sessions and TV dates with Harry Belafonte and toured the U.S with Barbra Streisand in 1965. Smith served as musical director for Janis Joplin in 1969- playing the Ed Sullivan Show, the San Francisco Ice Palace and her only European tour, and recorded, toured and did live TV performances with Aretha Franklin from 1965-1978.

Concurrent with his extensive Motown, Broadway and studio work, Warren Smith began teaching at Adelphi University in 1969 and later at the State University of New York in Old Westbury from 1971-1996. Warren has remained a revered percussionist within the jazz world, performing, touring and recording with Muhal Richard Abrams, Sam Rivers, David Murray, Sonny Sharrock, Anthony Davis and many other masters of the music. Throughout the 1970s and 80s, Smith led various incarnations of The Composer's Workshop Ensemble.

One of the great trap drummers, Warren Smith is fluent on marimba, tympani, vibraphone and other percussion. He is a founding member of Max Roach's groundbreaking percussion ensemble, M'Boom.

The Solos & Duos Series continues with performances by the **Roswell Rudd/Mark Dresser Duo** (Oct. 17) and the **Fred Anderson/Chad Taylor Duo** (Dec. 5). Tickets are \$10 and \$5 (students), and are available through the Fine Arts Center box office, 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS.

The Solos & Duos Series is produced by the UMass Fine Arts Center and made possible by the: Student Affairs Cultural Enrichment Fund and UMass Alumni Association. Thanks to the Campus Center Hotel and WMUA, 91.1FM

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