Solos & Duos Series concludes with:

**The Sonny Fortune/Rashied Ali Duo**

The UMass Fine Arts Center’s Solos & Duos Series concludes its season with the Sonny Fortune/Rashied Ali Duo, featuring Sonny Fortune, saxophones and flute, and Rashied Ali, drums, on Thursday, November 20 at 8:00 pm., Bezanson Recital Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Rashied Ali is a progenitor and leading exponent of multidirectional and polytonal percussion. A Philadelphia native (1935), Ali was a student of Philly Joe Jones and an admirer of Art Blakey, and cut his teeth with local R&B artists such as Big Maybelle, before playing with such Philly notables as Lee Morgan, Don Patterson and Jimmy Smith. After moving to New York in the early 1960s, Ali performed with Don Cherry, Pharoah Sanders, Paul Bley, Archie Shepp, Bill Dixon, Albert Ayler, and from 1965 to 1967, John Coltrane.

“If anyone understood what was going through the mind of John Coltrane during the recording of Interstellar Space, it was Ali,” wrote the Baltimore City Paper. “For every rhythmic turn and tumble Coltrane offered, Ali was there to answer the challenge. While Coltrane was changing rules and mind-sets about jazz composition and the saxophone, Ali was busy almost single-handedly inventing free-jazz percussion, fully liberating the drummer from a timekeeper role.”

In the early 1970s, Rashied Ali opened the loft-jazz club “Ali’s Alley” and also established a companion enterprise, Survival Records. He continues to produce riveting music with David Murray, James ‘Blood’ Ulmer and William Parker, among others.

Also born in Philadelphia (1939), Sonny Fortune had formative working experiences with Mongo Santamaria and McCoy Tyner, spending over two years with each. Subsequent high profile gigs with Miles Davis (1974-75), Dizzy Gillespie, Elvin Jones, and Nat Adderley, and a 30-year career as a leader has solidified Fortune’s place in the pantheon.

Fortune first heard John Coltrane's My Favorite Things in 1959. From that point on Coltrane became the primary inspiration for him-- a male figure whose influence on his life is rivaled only by that of his own father. "Of all of Trane's lasting contributions," wrote Howard Mandel, "perhaps the greatest to the future of improvised music was his example of spiritual integrity and physical drive. Sonny blows with both."

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 Residential Arts and made possible by the: Massachusetts Cultural Council, Student Affairs Cultural Enrichment Fund, UMass Arts Council and UMass Alumni Association.