NEWS RELEASE
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JAZZ IN JULY: Feel The Freedom Of Improvisation

The Fine Arts Center is now accepting applications to the 24th annual Jazz in July Summer Music Programs (July 11 - 22, 2005), the renowned jazz education and performance program held at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. For decades, 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 focus on three core concentrations: Instrumental Small Combos, and Vocal Jazz Soloists with Trios, where diverse approaches to teaching and performing, and small ensemble size makes Jazz in July unique from other summer programs. Our new Teacher Training and Incentive Program offers music educators a special opportunity to learn more about teaching jazz improvisation in the classroom. Because instrumental and vocal programs run at the same time, all participants will be able to join with other students for combined lectures, master classes, jam sessions, and performances.

The two-week Instrumental Small Combo Program, led by the Billy Taylor Trio, (Billy Taylor, piano; Chip Jackson, bass; Winard Harper, 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. This year we welcome to the program, two time Grammy-nominated trumpeter, Russell Gunn, who successfully blends jazz and hip-hop. Faculty artists also includes: John Blake, violin; Charles...
Ellison, trumpet; Bob Ferrier, guitar; and University resident faculty members: Willie Hill, saxophone; Jeff Holmes, piano; Adam Kolker, saxophone; David Sporny, trombone; and Frederick Tillis, saxophone.

The two-week **Vocal Jazz Soloists with Trios Program** 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 in-residence instrumental trios.

The **Teacher Training and Incentive Program** is a new program designed for music educators interested in teaching methods and materials, as well as the practical approaches to the study of music improvisation in jazz and other American music traditions. In addition to opportunities to attend master classes and lectures, the UMass resident jazz faculty will offer special sessions regarding theory, history and methodology in jazz. Music teachers can choose to attend either the first or second week with the option to attend the instrumental or vocal program the other week.

Teachers working toward re-certification or professional development are offered three additional options, including: undergraduate or graduate level academic credit, Massachusetts Department of Education-authorized Professional Development Points (PDP’s) or Connecticut Continuing Education Units (CEU’s), or tuition waivers based on 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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