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Contact: Jorge Luis González at 413-545-4482 or jlq@admin.umass.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 4th, 2011

- WHAT:** **We Four: A Tribute to John Coltrane**
 Featuring Jimmy Cobb, drums; Javon Jackson, saxophone;
 George Cables, piano; and Peter Washington, bass
- WHEN:** **Saturday, March 26th at 8 PM**
 Winning High School Jazz Band performs at 7:30 PM
- WHERE:** **Fine Arts Center Bowker Auditorium**
 University of Massachusetts Amherst
- TICKETS:** **Call 800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to**
 <http://www.umasstix.com/>
- IMAGES:** **To download images relating to this press release please go**
 online to
 <http://www.fineartscenter.com/centerwide/pressRoom/>

(TRIBUTE TO JOHN COLTRANE AT THE FAC'S BOWKER AUDITORIUM)

Formative voices in American jazz will come together on the UMass Fine Arts Center's Bowker Auditorium stage on Saturday, March 26th at 8 PM. The concert will pay tribute to one of the seminal figures in jazz, John Coltrane, and will feature Jimmy Cobb on drums, Javon Jackson on saxophone, George Cables on the piano, and Peter Washington on bass. Together they'll pay tribute to jazz legend John Coltrane and the music of his time. The evening's music is scheduled as part of the Center Series season and presented in collaboration with the UMass Music Department's 13th Annual High School Jazz Fest. Area high schools participate in adjudications and clinics by UMass Jazz faculty all day Saturday. The winning high school band will play at 7:30 PM in Bowker. Limited tickets are available for the Coltrane tribute.

Merely mention the name John Coltrane and you're likely to evoke a deeply emotional, often spiritual response from even the most casual jazz fan. Born September 23, 1926 John Coltrane was always surrounded by music. Prior to joining the Dizzy Gillespie band, Coltrane performed with Jimmy Heath where his passion for

experimentation began to take shape. However, it was his work with the Miles Davis Quintet in 1958 that would lead to his own musical evolution. During that period, he became known for using the three-on-one chord approach, and what has been called the "sheets of sound," a method of playing multiple notes at one time.

The John Coltrane Quartet created some of the most innovative and expressive music in Jazz history including the hit albums: "My Favorite Things," "Africa Brass," "Impressions," "Giant Steps," and his monumental work "A Love Supreme," which attests to the power, glory, love, and greatness of God. Coltrane felt we must all make a conscious effort to effect positive change in the world, and believed that his music was an instrument that could create positive thought patterns in the minds of people. In 1967, liver disease took Coltrane's life leaving many to wonder what might have been had he continued performing. Even now, decades after his departure, his music can be heard in motion pictures, on television and radio.

Drummer Jimmy Cobb is largely self-taught, though he studied briefly with Jack Dennett, a percussionist in the National Symphony Orchestra. He has played engagements with giants of the jazz world, including Charlie Rouse, Leo Parker, Billie Holiday, Dinah Washington, Sarah Vaughan, Cannonball Adderley, Stan Getz, and Dizzy Gillespie. In 1958 he replaced Philly Joe Jones in Miles Davis' group, with which he remained until 1963. Cobb's style of drumming is in the classic hard-bop tradition of Jones, Max Roach, and Art Blakey. As an accompanist he plays forcefully, aggressively, and slightly ahead of the beat; as a soloist he uses the entire drum set in a quasi-melodic fashion. Cobb is constantly being approached to teach what he knows and loves to talk to aspiring jazz musicians all over the world.

Javon Jackson came into international prominence as a member of Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. As a member of Blakey's Jazz Messengers, Javon toured and made many recordings with the legendary drummer. In addition to Blakey, Jackson has toured and recorded with Elvin Jones, Freddie Hubbard, Betty Carter, Cedar Walton, Ron Carter, Donald Byrd, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Richard Davis, Bobby Hutcherson, Curtis Fuller, and Stanley Turrentine. As a recording artist, Jackson has appeared on over 125 recordings. Additionally, he has developed a formidable career as a leader, recording and touring throughout the world. Javon's current musical group, The Javon Jackson Band, incorporates many styles, including jazz, funk, R&B, and rock.

Equally skilled as a leader or as a sideman, George Cables helped to define modern mainstream jazz piano of the 1980s and '90s. Cables gained recognition during

his stints with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, Sonny Rollins (both in 1969), Joe Henderson (1969–971), and Freddie Hubbard (1971–1976). He was with Dexter Gordon (1976–1978) during the tenor's successful return to the United States, and became known as Art Pepper's favorite pianist (1979–1982). In addition to his occasional work with *Bebop and Beyond* (starting in 1984), Cables appeared in a countless number of situations through the years, and has recorded frequently as a leader, most notably for Contemporary (including the 1979 classic "Cables' Vision"), Concord, and SteepleChase.

Perhaps the most recorded bassist of his generation, Peter Washington has also played an integral part in two of the most important and highly praised jazz trios of the last 20 years, in addition to a "Who's Who" roster of jazz artists. In 1986, while performing in San Francisco with alto saxophonist John Handy, he was asked by Art Blakey to move to New York and join the seminal Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers. Washington remained with the Jazz Messengers from 1986 to 1989, and during this time was able to establish himself as a ubiquitous, first-call freelance bassist, a position he has occupied to this day. In the early 1990s Washington joined the Tommy Flanagan Trio, called by many "the greatest trio in jazz," and remained until Flanagan's death in 2002. For the past ten years he has been a member of the highly acclaimed Bill Charlap Trio.

Tickets to *We Four: A Tribute to John Coltrane* are \$25 and \$15; Five College/GCC/STCC and youth 17 and under are \$10. Tickets are available from the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or on the Fine Arts Center ticket website at <http://www.umasstix.com/>. This performance is sponsored by UnityFirst.com, WFCR 88.5 FM, United Wealth Management Group, and the UMass Alumni Association.

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PHOTOS

Hi-res photos available for download:

<http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerwide/pressRoom/index.html>

PRESS PASSES

Limited press passes are available. Please contact Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or sfarley@admin.umass.edu

ABOUT THE FAC

The Fine Arts Center, located on the UMass Amherst campus, is a presenter of music, dance, theater and the visual arts, bringing hundreds of outstanding and provocative artists to the Pioneer Valley for over 35 years.

CALENDAR LISTING:

WE FOUR: CELEBRATING JOHN COLTRANE

Javon Jackson, tenor saxophone • George Cables, piano • Jimmy Cobb, drums • Peter Washington, bass

Saturday, March 26, 8 PM, Bowker Auditorium

Legends and young lions come together for a concert that lovingly pays tribute to John Coltrane and the music of his time.

\$25, \$15; Five College/GCC/STCC students and youth 17 and under: \$10

Sponsors: United Wealth Financial Management, WFCR 88.5FM, UnityFirst.com, UMass Alumni Association