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**THE 2010 MAGIC TRIANGLE JAZZ SERIES PRESENTS:**

**THE RAINING ON THE MOON ENSEMBLE**

The Magic Triangle Jazz Series, produced by WMUA, 91.1FM and the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, continues its 21st season on Thursday, March. 25, at Bezanson Recital Hall with an 8:00pm performance by the **Raining on the Moon Ensemble**, featuring **William Parker**, bass, **Hamid Drake**, drums, **Rob Brown**, alto sax, **Lewis 'Flip' Barnes**, trumpet, **Leena Conquest**, vocals and **Eri Yamamoto**, piano.

This year the Magic Triangle Jazz Series celebrates William Parker and Hamid Drake -- respected around the world for their commitment and musicality -- with three concerts, featuring special guests.

"William Parker and Hamid Drake are the best rhythm section in jazz right now," says *Alternative Press*. This has been true for 15 years. "Not since Don Cherry and Ed Blackwell joined forces have two musicians so organically wedded world-music influences with free jazz," writes *Jazziz*.

Since 2002, this ensemble has produced three recordings as a quartet (*O'Neals Porch*, *Sound Unity* and *Petit Oiseau*), and two more (*Raining on the Moon* and *Corn Meal Dance*), featuring vocalist Leena Conquest with the quartet.

"What marks *Raining on the Moon* as unique in Parker's long list of projects is its raw accessibility," writes Nils Jacobson. "William Parker is one of those extremely rare musicians who seem to impart a warm glow to every musical group he joins."

**William Parker**, whom the *Village Voice* has called, "the most consistently brilliant free jazz bassist of all time," was born in the Bronx, and by age 20 was performing with Don Cherry, Bill Dixon, Milford Graves, Billy Higgins and Sunny Murray. In 1980 he became a member of the Cecil Taylor Unit, in which he played a prominent role for over a decade. "The creative heir of Jimmy Garrison and Paul Chambers," concludes *The Penguin Guide to Jazz*, "Parker has emerged as one of the most inventive bassist/leaders since Mingus." *Time Out New York* proclaimed William Parker one of "the 50 greatest New York musicians of all time."

Since the late 1990s, **Hamid Drake** has been widely regarded as one of the best percussionists in improvised music. Incorporating Afro-Cuban, Indian, and African percussion instruments and influence, in addition to using the standard trap set, Drake has collaborated extensively with top free jazz improvisers Peter Brotzmann, Don Cherry and Pharoah Sanders, among others. Born in Monroe, LA, in 1955, Drake moved to Chicago, where he was mentored by Fred Anderson.

The Magic Triangle Jazz Series concludes with Parker, Drake and Evan Parker (April 15). Tickets are \$12/general public and \$7/students and are available through the Fine Arts Center Box Office, 1-800-999-UMAS.

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