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THE 2006 SOLOS & DUOS SERIES PRESENTS:

Joe McPhee

The Solos & Duos Series, produced by the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, concludes its 5th season with a concert by multi-instrumentalist **Joe McPhee** on **Wednesday, November 29**, in **Bezanson Recital Hall** at **8:00 pm**.

Joe McPhee is a brilliant improvising musician who plays saxophones, trumpets, valve trombone, clarinet, piano, and sometimes electronics. "McPhee is a major figure," writes Brian Morton. "He is one of the most consistently impressive and adventurous composer/ instrumentalists in the music."

Born in November, 1939 in Miami to a family with strong ties to sacred and secular musical traditions, McPhee taught in the Black Studies Department at Vassar College and continues an international career that spans 40 years and 80 recordings. He made his recording debut on Clifford Thornton's *Freedom and Unity*, (Third World, '67), and began recording under his own name two years later (*Underground Railroad*). In the early '70's, Werner Uehlinger formed HatART Records, with McPhee as the artistic inspiration and focus. He produced 11 brilliant recordings for the label between 1975 and '82.

"What was noticeable above all wasn't the facility and speed of his playing," Ben Ratliff wrote in The New York Times, about a McPhee solo performance, "but the quality of sound itself. The high point of the set spilled over into surprisingly emotional territory...not unlike what Rahsaan Roland Kirk did with folk songs and Jimi Hendrix did with 'The Star-Spangled Banner.' A brave set."

Joe McPhee admires the work of philosopher Dr. Edward de Bono (*Future Positive*), and is himself a thinker who often writes his own liner notes, combining poetic expressions of complexity and depth in both words and music.

Joe McPhee, along with saxophonist Archie Shepp, poet/writer Ron Welburn and moderator WS Tkweme (University of Louisville) will present a panel discussion on November 30 entitled, "As Serious As Your Life: Creative Music in the 60s". The event is free and begins at 7:30pm in Herter Auditorium. Part of the UMass History Dept. Feinberg Series, "Politics and Protest: 1960s and Now".

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

