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**THE 2013 MAGIC TRIANGLE JAZZ SERIES PRESENTS:**

**THE HARRISON BANKHEAD QUARTET**

The Magic Triangle Jazz Series, produced by WMUA-91.1FM and the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, continues its 24th season on **Thursday, March 28**, at **Bezanson Recital Hall**, at 8:00pm with a performance by the Harrison Bankhead Quartet. Bankhead will be joined by long-time collaborators **Edward Wilkerson, Jr.** and **Mars Williams**, reeds, and **Avreeayl Ra**, drums.

The Chicago jazz bassist **Harrison Bankhead** combines an appreciation for musical challenges, with a journeyman's ability to fit in an array of styles from straight-ahead to free jazz, flamenco to classical, gospel to soul. Although heard as a sideman on countless recordings, the Waukegan, Illinois native released his first record under his own name in 2011, *Morning Sun Moon Harvest* (Engine), featuring Wilkerson, Williams and Ra.

"Harrison Bankhead has been about as ubiquitous on the local scene as a jazz musician can be," writes Peter Margasak. "Over the past couple decades he's amassed a discography that includes dozens of credits, backing countless Chicago heavies—Roscoe Mitchell, Fred Anderson, Muhal Richard Abrams, Malachi Thompson—and serving as a key member in groups like 8 Bold Souls, Indigo Trio, Frequency, and Witches & Devils. He's the kind of selfless musician who makes just about everyone he plays with sound better."

"Bankhead's playing is firmly rooted in a Chicago bass lineage that stretches back to Milt Hinton and includes Wilbur Ware and Malachi Favors," writes Neil Tesser. "The dry warmth of both his tone and his melodies has proved welcome, even comforting, in the many contexts in which he's performed."

A composer, arranger, musician and educator, **Ed Wilkerson, Jr.** is one of Chicago's finest living saxophonists. Leader of the cutting-edge octet 8 Bold Souls (a swinging, inventive ensemble which has been around since the early '80s) and the 25-member performance ensemble Shadow Vignettes, he has also been a member of the Ethnic Heritage Ensemble and a past president of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Music (AACM).

Master percussionist **Avreeayl Ra** is "an indispensable innovator," writes the Chicago Tribune. "He shapes the music-making swirling around him with remarkable precision and poise." A long-term member of the AACM, Ra had early studies with organization co-founder Philip Cohran, and has since worked with Amiri Baraka, Fontella Bass, Lester Bowie, Oscar Brown, Jr., Sun Ra, and many more.

**Mars Williams** is a veteran musician, orchestrator and arranger who spent a good part of the 1980s as a member of The Psychedelic Furs, and has also worked with Billy Idol, Massacre and Ministry. He has toured with the Peter Brötzmann Tentet, the Vandermark 5 and Hal Russell's NRG Ensemble.

The Magic Triangle Jazz Series concludes with the Denman Maroney Quintet (April 25). Tickets are \$12/general public and \$7/students and are available through the Fine Arts Center Box Office, 1-800-999-UMAS.

*The Magic Triangle Jazz Concert Series is produced by WMUA-FM and the Fine Arts Center, and funded by the UMass Arts Council and an ECSA grant. Additional support from Amherst College and the UMass Hotel at the Campus Center.*