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THE 2014 MAGIC TRIANGLE JAZZ SERIES PRESENTS:

Jason Robinson's Janus Ensemble

The Magic Triangle Jazz Series, produced by WMUA-91.1FM and the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, begins its 25th season on **Thursday, Feb. 20**, at **Bezanson Recital Hall**, at 8:30pm with a performance by **Jason Robinson's Janus Ensemble**.

We begin our silver anniversary season with a performance by saxophonist, composer and Amherst College Assistant Professor of Music Jason Robinson as he reassembles the nine-piece ensemble featured on his most recent celebrated recording, *Tiresian Symmetry* (Cuneiform). The group features Robinson, along with **JD Parran** (reeds), **Marty Ehrlich** (reeds), **Bill Lowe** (tuba, bass trombone), **Marcus Rojas** (tuba), **Liberty Ellman** (guitar), **Drew Gress** (bass), **George Schuller** (drums), and **Ches Smith** (drums). The concert will feature a series of compositions inspired by the ancient Greek myth of Tiresias, and the 1990s music of Henry Threadgill.

"Expansive arrangements are only one facet of Robinson's talents," writes Troy Collins. "A bold and confident interpreter, Robinson repeatedly structures his solo excursions using a variety of approaches, lending each statement its own unique narrative identity. Thrilling in its intensity, Robinson's climactic performance is a remarkable demonstration of creativity, stamina and virtuosity, confirming *Tiresian Symmetry* as his most complete statement to date."

The music of saxophonist and scholar Jason Robinson thrives in the fertile overlaps between improvisation and composition, acoustic music and electronics, tradition and experimentalism. Fall 2010 marked a watershed in Robinson's output as a leader. He released three concurrent albums showcasing an enormous breadth of creative work, including *The Two Faces of Janus* (Cuneiform), featuring Drew Gress, Liberty Ellman, George Schuller, Marty Ehrlich and Rudresh Mahanthappa; *Cerulean Landscape* (Clean Feed), duets with the acclaimed pianist and composer Anthony Davis; and *Cerberus Reigning* (Accretions), the second installment of the "Cerberus" trilogy, featuring Robinson's solo electroacoustic music.

"Robinson's compositions manage to draw a straight line through bop, Duke Ellington, Ornette Coleman and Eric Dolphy straight into the modern day with acute-angle swing, blues bluster and memorable themes that seem to scratch at the back of the mind with familiarity without resorting to quotation or imitation," writes Shaun Brady in *DownBeat*.

Robinson, who holds a Ph.D. in Music from the University of California, San Diego, has performed and recorded with Peter Kowald, George Lewis, Eugene Chadbourne, Earl Howard, Toots and the Maytals, Groundation, Bertram Turetzky, Mark Dresser and many others.

The Magic Triangle Jazz Series continues with Joe Lovano/Mark Helias/Tom Giampietro Trio (March 13) and the Marty Ehrlich Large Ensemble (April 17). 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. Additional support from Amherst College and the UMass Hotel at the Campus Center.

