

NEWS RELEASE

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Ignite your summer with Jazz in July summer performances!

**Thursday, July 14th, featuring
Sheila Jordan, Avery Sharpe, Winard Harper, Earl MacDonald
and
Thursday, July 21th, featuring
Christian Sands, Steve Davis, Steve Johns, Catherine Jensen-Hole**

The 35th Annual **Jazz in July Summer Music Programs** runs July 11-22, 2016. The renowned jazz education, performance, and improvisation program is held each year at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Jazz in July is a summer intensive workshop examining the technique, history, and culture of jazz. Jazz legends such as Dr. Billy Taylor, Sheila Jordan, and Max Roach helped develop Jazz in July's strong foundation in the traditions of jazz.

Jazz in July faculty spend these two weeks working with students, helping them to hone their skills as jazz musicians. But Thursday night is their time to shine, showing their chops as prominent jazz musicians!

On Thursday, July 14, the first installment of the Jazz in July All Stars perform in Bezanson Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. July 14 features world-renowned vocalist SHEILA JORDAN, celebrated bassist AVERY SHARPE, world-class drummer WINARD HARPER and skilled pianist EARL MacDONALD.

"It's an amazing opportunity for our students and for the local community to experience these artists here in concert," says Administrative Director David Picchi. "Our students get to work with them all week long and then, they get the chance to see and hear them performing on stage. It's truly a valuable experience." July 14 also features Bob Ferrier, Jeff Holmes, Stephen Page, Barry Ries, Genevieve Rose, Felipe Salles and Ted Sullivan.

On Thursday, July 21, the second installment of the Jazz in July All Stars perform, also in Bezanson Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. July 21 features Hartt School of Music faculty STEVE DAVIS, world class drummer STEVE JOHNS, famed pianist CHRISTIAN SANDS, and UMass Vocal Jazz faculty CATHERINE JENSEN-HOLE. Christian Sands is a Jazz in July alumni; he studied here with our very own Billy Taylor. The July 21 show also features Greg Caputo, Bruce Diehl, Bob Ferrier, Jeff Holmes, Stephen Page, Genevieve Rose, and Shigefumi "Fumi" Tomita.

Tickets for the Jazz in July All Star concerts are: \$20 General Public, \$15 Students and Seniors. Tickets are available in advance at the FAC Box Office, 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, and at the door on the evening of the show (cash only at the door).

MORE SUMMER PERFORMANCES! We also highlight the work of our students during performances on Wednesdays and Fridays. **Join us on Wednesdays, July 13 & 20 at 7 p.m. for Club Jazz in July.** Here we present our student combos and vocalists in a relaxed, club environment. This event takes place in the Marriott Center, 11th floor of the Campus Center complex at the University of Massachusetts. Light refreshments and cash bar. Suggested donation is \$10.

Then on Fridays, July 15 & 22, enjoy a full day of jazz as we present Jazz Futures. This concert event is the culmination of all the hard work of the week! Student combos and vocalists perform their best for the whole day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Bezanson Recital Hall. Come see the future of jazz! Suggested donation is \$10.

ABOUT JAZZ IN JULY: Jazz in July is a program of the UMass Fine Arts Center, sponsored in cooperation with the UMass Department of Music & Dance, and the UMass College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Our **Instrumental Ensemble** and **Vocal Soloists** programs offer students the chance to study with professional world-class faculty at the scenic, flagship UMass Amherst campus. The rigorous training includes **instrument/vocal master classes, group clinics, jazz theory and improvisation training, ensemble coaching, jam sessions, combined lectures, and public performances** by participants and faculty members alike.

Many students receive scholarships to attend Jazz in July. To sponsor a student, contact us at jazzinjury@acad.umass.edu or call 413.545.4158.

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