



Solos and Duos Series
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THE 2015 SOLOS & DUOS SERIES PRESENTS:

A Different World: William Parker with David Budbill

The Solos & Duos Series, produced by the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, begins its 14th season with a concert by **William Parker** and **David Budbill**, **Thursday, October 1, 8:00 pm, Bezanson Recital Hall.**

William Parker has been a key figure in the NY creative jazz scene for 40 years. Renowned as a composer, improviser, and a bassist, Parker is also an educator and author. During his prolific career, he has recorded over 150 albums, had countless celebrated stage appearances, and helped shaped the jazz scene for both his peers and succeeding generations. . In addition to bass, Parker frequently plays shakuhachi, double reeds, the doson ngoni, and gimbire. He is a theorist and author of several books including: *who owns music?*, *Sound Journal*, and *The Mayor of Punkville*.

Parker was born and raised in the Bronx, NY, and has resided in the Lower East Side since 1975. He studied bass with Richard Davis, Art Davis, Milt Hinton, Wilber Ware, and Jimmy Garrison, and played in the Cecil Taylor Unit from 1980 through 1991. Parker has performed and recorded with Bill Dixon, Sunny Murray, Charles Tyler, Billy Higgins, Charles Brackeen, Alan Silva, Frank Wright, Frank Lowe, Rashid Ali, Jeanne Lee, David S. Ware, Dave Burrell, Don Cherry, Jimmy Lyons, and virtually every other major jazz artist to emerge in the last half-century.

In 1994 Parker began leading his own bands, *In Order To Survive*, and *The Little Huey Creative Music Orchestra*, and has since worked with his *Raining On the Moon Ensemble* and his *Curtis Mayfield Project*.

In '95 the Village Voice called William Parker as “the most consistently brilliant free jazz bassist of all time.”

In 2013, Parker received the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, recognizing his influence and impact on the creative jazz scene over the last 40 years. For the last 20 years, he has been a key member of Arts for Art and the Vision Festival, which produces improvised music concerts throughout New York.

“I compose and play music as it comes through me in order to uplift, encourage, and inspire the listener to enter the realm of their higher self,” writes Parker. “So they, in turn, may, in their own lives and work, act as a force for good. The ultimate goal of the music is that all who listen to it be filled with compassion.”

David Budbill was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1940 to a streetcar driver and a minister’s daughter. He is the author of seven books of poems, eight plays, a novel, a collection of short stories, a picture book for children, dozens of essays, introductions, speeches and book reviews, the libretto for an opera and is a performance poet.

The Los Angeles Daily News says that David Budbill writes “with rare honesty, affection and grace—and with language so precise and descriptive you will know immediately you’re soul-deep in something extraordinary.”

In 1999 Budbill and William Parker released *Zen Mountains-Zen Streets: A Duet for Poet and Improvised Bass*, a two-CD set on Boxholder Records. In 2003, Budbill, Parker and drummer Hamid Drake released, *Songs for a Suffering World: A Prayer for Peace, a Protest Against War*.

Tickets are still only \$10 and \$5 (students), and are available through the FAC box office, 413-545-2511.
The Solos & Duos Series is produced by the UMass Fine Arts Center. Thanks to Hotel UMASS.