

UMassAmherst

Fine Arts Center

Valley Jazz Network presents:

Riffing the Reality: Women, Gender, and Jazz

Wednesday, March 10, 7 p.m. ET

Panel Conversation with Terri Lyne Carrington,
Tammy L. Kernodle, and Sara Elizabeth Charles
and Concert with Terri Lyne Carrington

and musicians of the Berklee Institute of Jazz and Gender Justice



The UMass Fine Arts Center is supported by the New England Foundation for the Arts through the New England Arts Resilience Fund, part of the United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund, an initiative of the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with major funding from the federal CARES Act from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Riffing the Reality is sponsored by Daily Hampshire Gazette and New England Public Media; Co-Presented with Berklee Institute of Jazz & Gender Justice.



UMass Amherst occupies the traditional land of the Nonotuck tribe. We recognize our neighboring Indigenous nations: the Nipmuc and the Wampanoag to the East, the Mohegan and Pequot to the South, the Mohican to the West, and the Abenaki to the North. We further acknowledge through language courtesy of Groundwater Arts, that Zoom, the platform used for this event, is headquartered in what is now called San Jose, CA on the traditional lands of the Ohlone and Tamyen peoples.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS

Terri Lyne Carrington is a three-time GRAMMY® award-winning drummer, producer, educator and activist, and started her professional career as a “kid wonder” while studying under a full scholarship at Berklee College of Music in Boston. In the mid '80's she worked as an in-demand drummer in New York before gaining national recognition on late night TV as the house drummer for both the Arsenio Hall Show and Quincy Jones' VIBE TV show.

In 1989, Ms. Carrington released a GRAMMY®-nominated debut CD on Verve Forecast, *Real Life Story*, and toured extensively with Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock, among others. In 2011 Carrington released the GRAMMY® Award-winning album, *The Mosaic Project*, featuring a cast of all-star women instrumentalists and vocalists, and in 2013 she released *Money Jungle: Provocative in Blue*, which also earned a GRAMMY® Award, establishing her as the first woman ever to win in the Best Jazz Instrumental Album category.

To date Ms. Carrington has performed on over 100 recordings and has worked extensively with luminary artists such as Al Jarreau, Stan Getz, Woody Shaw, Clark Terry, Cassandra Wilson, Dianne Reeves, James Moody, Yellowjackets, Esperanza Spalding, and many more. Additionally, Ms. Carrington is an honorary doctorate recipient from Berklee, and currently serves as Founder and Artistic Director for the Berklee Institute of Jazz and Gender Justice.

Ms. Carrington was granted the Doris Duke Artist Award in 2019, and the 2021 NEA Jazz Masters Award in recognition of her past and ongoing contributions to jazz music. Her current band project, Terri Lyne Carrington and Social Science (a collaboration with Aaron Parks and Matthew Stevens), released their debut album, *Waiting Game*, in November, 2019 on Motema Music.

Sarah Elizabeth Charles is a vocalist/composer based in New York City. She has worked and studied with artists such as Christian Scott, George Cables, Geri Allen, and Sheila Jordan and has released three critically acclaimed albums with her band, SCOPE between 2012 and today. As the active vocalist in a number of bands (including SCOPE, Ajoyo, duo with Jarrett Cherner, Jesse Fischer's projects and Transient Beings) Charles has performed at many venues throughout her career. These have included The White House, Carnegie Hall, the first annual Culture Summit in Abu Dhabi, The Kennedy Center, the Rose Theatre with Jazz at Lincoln Center and many more. She has also had a commissioned composition performed at The National Gallery in Washington D.C. via The Canales Project "Hear Her Song" initiative.

In addition to her performances, Charles is an active educator as well. She works as a teaching artist with Carnegie Hall's Sing Sing Correctional Facility and Future Music Project youth workshops, has a private lessons studio in New York City, is an adjunct professor at The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music teaching a course she designed called "Jazz and Gender" and has developed an early childhood music education program with Rise2Shine, a non-profit organization based in Fond Parisien, Haiti. In 2019, she was one of five recipients of the Yale School of Music's Distinguished Teaching Artist Award. In 2020, she was selected to be one of five members of the Joe's Pub Working Group, as a recipient of the New York City Women's Fund

grant in support of her band's fourth album to be released in 2021 and as a recipient of Chamber Music America's New Jazz Works grant.

Charles' musical output has been described as a “genre of one” (DownBeat Magazine), “soulfully articulate” (NY Times) and “an unmatched sound” (Jay Z’s Life+Times). Her critically acclaimed sophomore project, *Inner Dialogue*, released in 2015 on Truth Revolution Records, features her band along with co-producer/special guest Christian Scott. Her third album, *Free of Form* is now available everywhere on Ropeadope/Stretch Music and features SCOPE as well as Scott as co-producer/special guest. One can only look to the future for more unique and boundary pushing music from this one of a kind artist.

Tammy L. Kernodle is an internationally-recognized scholar and musician that teaches and researches in the areas of African American music and gender and music. She has worked closely with a number of educational programs including The American Jazz Museum, National Museum of African American History and Culture, NPR, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the BBC. Her work has appeared in numerous journals, anthologies, and online platforms including NPR's Turning the Table Series and a recent digital exhibit of jazz materials at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. Kernodle is the author of biography *Soul on Soul: The Life and Music of Mary Lou Williams*, which was recently released in a new second edition (University of Illinois Press, 2020). She served as Associate Editor of the three-volume Encyclopedia of African American Music and on the Editorial team for the revision of the Grove Dictionary of American Music. She has appeared in a number of award-winning documentaries including *Girls in the Band*, *The Lady Who Swings the Band* and *Miles Davis: The Birth of Cool*. Dr. Kernodle currently serves as the President of the Society for American Music and is Professor of Musicology at Miami University.

Moderator Yvonne Mendez is recently retired from the University of Massachusetts where she served as FAC Director of Education & Engagement. Her duties also included coordinating the jazz outreach program Valley Jazz Network. A few programs Yvonne presented for VJN include Jazz Music & Social Change, Cuban Music and Jazz as well as The Legacy of Max Roach. She is currently working as a freelance consultant in Arts & Education and Media and Communications Design & Management. Yvonne hopes to continue to collaborate locally, and present unique jazz immersive presentations in the Pioneer Valley.

ABOUT THE BERKLEE INSTITUTE OF JAZZ AND GENDER JUSTICE-What would jazz sound like in a culture without patriarchy?

The jazz industry remains predominantly male due to a biased system, imposing a significant toll on those who aspire to work in it. In understanding the importance of balance and equity, the goal of the Berklee Institute of Jazz and Gender Justice is to do corrective work and modify the way jazz is perceived and presented, so the future of jazz looks different than its past without rendering invisible many of the art form's creative contributors.

The Berklee Institute of Jazz and Gender Justice focuses on equity in the jazz field and the role that jazz plays in the larger struggle for gender justice. The institute celebrates the contributions women have made in the development of the art form as well as frame more equitable conditions for all pursuing careers in jazz in an effort to work toward a necessary and lasting cultural shift in the field.

Upcoming Event:

Bodies at Risk: Emily Johnson & Alice Sheppard
Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. ET | Free Event
Conversation and Q&A



A USA Artist, Creative Capital grantee and Bessie Award winner, Alice Sheppard creates movement that engages intersectional disability arts, culture, and history to challenge conventional understandings of disabled and dancing bodies. She is the founder and artistic lead for Kinetic Light. Emily Johnson is a Bessie Award-winning choreographer, Guggenheim Fellow and recipient of the Doris Duke Artist Award, she is based in New York City. Originally from Alaska, Emily is of Yup'ik descent.

Emily Johnson's residency is made possible with funding from the "Gathering at the Crossroads: Building Native American and Indigenous Studies program of the Five College Consortium," an initiative underwritten by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This season, **the Asian and Asian American Arts and Culture Program** celebrates 27 years with a renewed mission to present the artistic and living cultural heritages of the Asia/Pacific Islander region and the Asian American experience as a lens to promote intercultural dialogue and social engagement for our local, virtual, and broader audiences.

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