

UMassAmherst | Fine Arts Center

The Fay Victor Chamber Trio Thursday, March 25, 7 p.m. ET Virtual Concert with Live Q & A



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 YouTube, the platform used for this event, is headquartered in what is now called San Bruno, CA on the traditional lands of the Ohlone, Muwekma, and Ramaytush peoples. We acknowledge the lands YouTube resides on as the digital platform does not exist in an ether or an imaginary void, but is made possible because of physical land and the Indigenous people who steward it.



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.

Thanks to our performing arts season sponsor, Coca Cola and our season media sponsor, The Daily Hampshire Gazette.



ABOUT FAY VICTOR

FAY VICTOR (vocalist, composer, lyricist)

Brooklyn, NY (USA) based sound artist/composer Fay Victor hones a unique vision for the vocalist's role in jazz and improvised music. Victor encompasses a distinctive vocalizing, language and performing approach with the foundation of the jazz vocal idiom, now encompassing an "everything is everything" aesthetic bringing in references that span the globe. Victor sees the vocal instrument in itself as full of possibilities of sound exploration, the voice a direct and powerful conduit for language and messages in an improvising context. All of these ideas aim to push the vocal envelope to forge greater expressive possibilities. In Victor's 10 critically acclaimed albums as a leader one can hear the through line of expansive expression leading up to Victor's most recent release, *BARN SONGS* (Northern Spy Records) with her Chamber Trio featuring Darius Jones (alto saxophone) & Marika Hughes (cello) that was released in November 2019.

Victor's work has been featured in media outlets such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *Rolling Stone Magazine*, *TimeOut New York* & *The Huffington Post*; has worked with luminaries such as William Parker, Roswell Rudd, Nicole Mitchell, Archie Shepp, Marc Ribot & Tyshawn Sorey to name but a few; highlights of her performances include *The Whitney Museum* & *The Museum of Modern Art (NYC)*, *The Hammer Museum (LA)*, *The Kolner Philharmonie (Germany)*, *De Young Museum (SF)*, *Symphony Space (NY)*, *The Earshot Jazz Festival (Seattle)*, *The Winter Jazz Festival (NY)* and *the Bimhuis (Netherlands)*. Victor was the 2017 Herb Albert/Yaddo Fellow in Music Composition and a 2018 recipient of a month-long *Headlands Center for the Arts* residency. Victor is currently on the Faculty at the *New School of Jazz & Contemporary Music* and gives master classes, workshops and clinics on Creative Improvisation, Songwriting for Improvisors; Lectures and talks on subjects such as Confidence Building, My Cultural Lens and Experiments in Communicating Message as well as private lessons for the serious vocal student and improviser.

Darius Jones (alto saxophonist-composer)

Over the past decade, Darius Jones has created a recognizable voice as a critically acclaimed saxophonist and composer by embracing individuality and innovation in the tradition of African-American music. "Jones' concept is proudly his own," writes Philip Clark in *The Wire*. [His music] poses big questions about the relationship between the African-American tradition of spirituals, blues and gospel, and now." With New York City as his base since 2005, Jones has brought his unique sound to dozens of cities around the United States, Canada and Europe.

Jones early on established himself as a powerful voice in the jazz community and was nominated in 2013 for Alto Saxophonist of the Year, and for Up & Coming Artist of the Year two years in a row for the Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Awards. Jones was one of *Jazz Times'* Debut Artists of the Year for 2009 and was featured in the *Wall Street Journal* in 2011. In 2012 he was featured in *DownBeat* and on *WBGO's The Checkout*. Jones' 2012 release, *Book of Mæ'bul (Another Kind*

of Sunrise), was listed among NPR's Best Top 10 Jazz Albums of that year. "Jones speaks through his alto in an original and unforced language," writes DownBeat's Joe Tangari. Critics have called him "robustly creative" (Nate Chinen, New York Times) and "one of NYC's most incisive and passionate saxists" (Time Out New York). AllAboutJazz.com reviewer Troy Collins writes, "Jones has set the stage for a winning series of albums designed to document his rise as one of the most impressive and unique voices of our time."

More recently The New York Times named Jones among the Best Live Jazz Performances of 2017 for his Vision Festival performance with Farmers by Nature. Jones graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelors in Jazz Studies in 2003, earning a Master's Degree in Jazz Performance/Composition from New York University in 2008.

Marika Hughes (cellist)

Marika Hughes is a native New Yorker, cellist, singer, and storyteller on The Moth. She grew up in a musical family – Marika's grandfather was the great cellist Emanuel Feuermann, and her parents owned a jazz club, Burgundy, on the Upper West Side. As children, she and her younger brother were both regulars on Sesame Street, and attended the beloved Manhattan Country School. Marika continued her education in the double degree program at Barnard College and the Juilliard School, graduating with BAs in political science and cello performance, respectively.

Marika has worked with Whitney Houston, Lou Reed, Anthony Braxton, David Byrne, Adele, Henry Threadgill, D'Angelo, Idina Menzel, Nels Cline, Somi and Taylor Mac, among many others. She was a founding member of the Bay Area-based bands 2 Foot Yard (Two Foot Yard, Tzadik 2003 & Borrowed Arms, Yard Work, 2008) and Red Pocket (Thick, Tzadik 2004). She is a master teacher and director for Young Arts and a teaching-artist at Carnegie Hall's Lullaby Project. She currently holds the cello chair at the Broadway show, Hadestown. Marika has self-released three albums: *The Simplest Thing* (2011), *Afterlife Music Radio* (2011) and *New York Nostalgia* (2016). She happily leads her bands Bottom Heavy and The New String Quartet and is the co-founder and co-director of Looking Glass Arts, an artist residency and youth education program in upstate New York. With a commitment to a sliding scale fee structure, LGA is democratizing access to the space, time and natural beauty critical to artistic and educational growth. Marika lives in the countryside of Kings County.

Upcoming Events:

Kinstillatory Mappings and Speculative Invitations to Otherwise Spaces of Care:

Emily Johnson in conversation with Karyn Recollet

Friday, March 26, 2021 4:30-6 p.m. ET | Free Event

Hosted by Five College Dance in partnership with UMass FAC

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.



Zaccai Curtis Afro-Cuban Jazz Quartet

Saturday, March 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. ET | \$7 or free for UMass students

In Conjunction with the UMass High School Jazz Festival



For more information about these and all UMass Fine Arts Center Events and to get your ticketing link please visit:

fineartscenter.com