

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or sfarley@umass.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 15, 2019

- WHAT:** Aaron Diehl: *Paradoxes in Performance*
WHEN: Friday, February 8 at 8 p.m.
WHERE: Bowker Auditorium
University of Massachusetts Amherst
- TICKETS:** Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to fineartscenter.com/Diehl
- IMAGES:** To download images relating to this press release please go online to fineartscenter.com/pressroom

PREMIER NYC JAZZ PIANIST AARON DIEHL EXPLORES CLASSICAL AND JAZZ TRADITIONS AT FINE ARTS CENTER

“...it’s hard to imagine that Gershwin would not have been impressed. The audience was: It gave Mr. Diehl an enthusiastic ovation.” - *The New York Times*

One of the most sought after jazz virtuosos in the industry, pianist Aaron Diehl, will perform at Bowker Auditorium on Friday, February 8 at 8 p.m. For this appearance, Diehl presents “Paradoxes in Performance,” an exploration of how classical and jazz traditions intersect and influence each other. The program for the evening includes works by Louis Moreau Gottschalk, Jelly Roll Morton, George Gershwin, Fats Waller, Aaron Copland, and more.

Diehl, a classically trained pianist and composer, has made an indelible mark on the jazz world over the last 15 years. With an affinity for early jazz and mid-20th century “third-stream” music, Diehl is in a new era of exploration in his career with performances of Gershwin’s piano sonatas and “I Got Rhythm Variations” with the NY Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, LA Philharmonic, Amarillo Symphony in the last year and performing the piano works of Philip Glass, both in the United States and abroad.

A graduate of Juilliard, Diehl has been a staple of the New York jazz scene since 2007. He has collaborated with jazz greats Wynton Marsalis and Benny Golson, as well as classical titan Philip Glass. He established himself as a premier interpreter of the Great American Songbook with his working trio, and as musical director and arranger for two-time Grammy winner, Cécile McLorin Salvant. Diehl and Salvant’s musical partnership has enhanced Diehl’s profile well beyond the jazz world, and is one of the most fruitful partnerships in recent history.

In 2011, Diehl was awarded the Cole Porter Fellowship by the American Pianists Association and in 2014 he became the youngest ever Monterey Jazz Festival Commission Artist. Under Mack Avenue Records, he has released two critically-acclaimed albums: *The Bespoke Man's Narrative* (2013) and *Space, Time, Continuum* (2015). As a prominent musician in the New York City jazz scene, he has served as the Music Director for Jazz at Lincoln Center's New Orleans Songbook series (2014-15) and participated in Jazz in July's "The Art of Tatum," honoring one of his primary piano idols, Art Tatum.

Tickets for Aaron Diehl: Paradoxes in Performance are \$35, \$25; Five College Students and youth 17 and under are \$10. For tickets call the Box Office at 545-2511, toll-free at 800-999-UMAS, or purchase online at fineartscenter.com/Diehl. This concert is sponsored by Applewood & Loomis Communities, New England Public Radio 88.5FM, and Hotel UMass.

PHOTOS

High resolution images can be downloaded here or at fineartscenter.com/pressroom.



[JPG photo 41 KB, 534 X 800 pixels](#)



[JPG photo 4042 KB, 3456 X 4608 pixels](#)

PRESS PASSES

A limited number of press passes are available. Please contact Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or sfarley@umass.edu.

CALENDAR LISITNG

UMass Fine Arts Center presents:

AARON DIEHL: PARADOXES IN PERFORMANCE

Friday, February 8, 8 pm, Bowker Auditorium

Pianist Aaron Diehl performs "Paradoxes in Performance," an audible tour of how classical and jazz traditions intersect and influence each other. Program includes works by Louis Moreau Gottschalk, Jelly Roll Morton, George Gershwin, Fats Waller, Aaron Copland and more. Tickets: 545-2511, toll-free at 800-999-UMAS, or purchase online at fineartscenter.com/Diehl.