

Sept. 7, 2017

**MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program announces dazzling mix of stars
Trumpeter Michael Philip Mossman to kick off fifth season in early October**

Contact: Michael Sundermann, MSU College of Music Communications Office
517-353-2043, sunderm1@music.msu.edu
[Jazz Artists in Residence preview online](#)

EAST LANSING, Mich. – A dynamic mix of star-powered musicians with a mastery of traditional, Latin and contemporary styles of jazz will energize Michigan from October through March, marking the fifth year of the MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program coordinated by the MSU College of Music.

Launched in 2013, the College's innovative residency program attracts high-level talent to teach, mentor and perform at both the university and K-12 schools and academies across the state. Made possible by a \$1 million endowment from the MSU Federal Credit union, the program has positioned MSU as a model for jazz studies programs nationwide. The 2017-18 program features an astonishing lineup of working musicians, composers and educators who draw on a multitude of jazz traditions and styles, and includes **Michael Philip Mossman, Harvey Mason, Helen Sung** and **Steve Wilson**.

“The MSU Federal Credit Union's generosity and vision has made it possible for MSU to continue to become a center of excellence for jazz education, innovation and study,” says Director of Jazz Studies Rodney Whitaker. “Thanks to their leadership and their support, we can continue to attract the talent and resources to ensure the great artistic treasure of American Jazz will be experienced by current and future generations.”

Jazz trumpeter **Michael Philip Mossman** will be the first of four scheduled artists for residencies this academic year, and will be with MSU Jazz Studies from Oct. 9-15. The exceptional trumpeter has toured with a virtual who's who of the music industry, and has recorded with his own bands in traditional and Latin-based styles. While at MSU, Mossman will mentor College of Music students and perform for the public. **Mossman performs with MSU Jazz Orchestras I, II and III on Oct. 13, 8 p.m., at Fairchild Theatre, in the MSU Auditorium.** He will also visit high schools, art academies and community colleges statewide, accompanied by MSU Jazz Orchestra I, the College's premier student jazz ensemble.

“Mossman comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and a vast program of tunes he has arranged for the most prominent orchestras in jazz,” says Etienne Charles, MSU associate professor of jazz trumpet. “We're very excited to bring such an accomplished, versatile talent to our campus and the state.”

Following Mossman, Drummer Harvey Mason, Pianist Helen Sung and Saxophonist Steve Wilson will electrify the winter and spring through three separate, weeklong residencies. The inspiring lineup provides students and the community a rare opportunity to listen to and learn from high-energy, well-known musicians and virtuosos who are equally accomplished as educators, composers and arrangers shaping the world of jazz.

-more-

MSU Jazz Artist in Residence program presents sizzling fifth-year lineup (cont.)

The MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program represents the largest-ever investment in the College's curriculum and provides one-on-one instruction, collaboration and performance opportunities with some of the world's best jazz musicians. The impressive lineups over the years include:

- Year One 2013-14: Saxophonist Antonio Hart, Trumpeter Jon Faddis and Drummer Jeff Hamilton
- Year Two 2014-15: Bassist Christian McBride, Trombonist Robin Eubanks, Guitarist Peter Bernstein, and Michigan icons Saxophonist Vincent Bowens and Drummer Tim Froncek
- Year Three 2015-16: Trumpeter Brian Lynch, Drummer Jimmy Cobb, Pianist Kenny Barron and Saxophonist Tim Warfield, Jr.
- Year Four 2016-17: Guitarist Russell Malone, Bassist Rufus Reid, Clarinetist-Saxophonist Anat Cohen and Trombonist Conrad Herwig

The combined weeklong residencies of the 16 artists included workshops, concerts, events and outreach to more than 27,332 students and adults in communities across Michigan.

“The MSU Federal Credit Union believes in giving back to the community, and one way we do that is through the support of arts, culture and education,” says April Clobes, president and CEO of the MSUFCU. “This gift to the College of Music helps strengthen Mid-Michigan's quality of life by providing exceptional opportunities to experience the beauty and excitement of jazz—one of America's greatest art forms.”

—Continued—

—See Artist Schedules and Bios on Pages 3, 4, 5, 6—

—end—

MSU Jazz Artist in Residence presents sizzling fifth-year lineup (cont.)

Artist Schedules

Jazz Artist in Residence: Michael Philip Mossman, jazz trumpet

Residency Schedule Overview

October 9–15, 2017

Michael Philip Mossman has been active on both the jazz and Latin jazz scenes with a virtual who's who of the music industry since he was 17. The versatile and highly-sought after jazz trumpeter, band leader, composer and educator will visit and perform with MSU Jazz Orchestra I at Michigan schools, colleges and arts academies in Byron Center, Detroit and West Michigan.

- Monday, Oct. 9, Press Day, MSFCU Blue Monday
- Tuesday, Oct. 10, Rehearsals and Workshops at MSU
- Wednesday, Oct. 11, Byron Center High School, Byron Center
- Thursday, Oct. 12, West Ottawa with Holland and Black River High Schools
- Friday, Oct. 13, MSU Fairchild Theatre with Jazz Orchestras I, II and III
- Saturday, Oct. 14, Center Stage Theatre, West Shore Community College, Ludington
- Sunday, Oct. 15, First Congregational Church of Detroit, sponsored by the Carr Center

Jazz Artist in Residence: Harvey Mason, jazz drums

Residency Schedule Overview

December 4-10, 2017

Harvey Mason has been a busy studio musician, jazz drummer, record producer, and member of the band Fourplay throughout his career. Mason's adept style enables him to perform within numerous styles, genres and areas within the music industry. He will visit, teach and perform with MSU Jazz Orchestra I at Michigan schools, colleges and art academies in Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor, Traverse City and Detroit.

- Monday, Dec. 4, Press Day, MSUFCU Blue Monday
- Tuesday, Dec. 5, Rehearsals and Workshops at MSU
- Wednesday, Dec. 6, Hackett Catholic Prep High School, Kalamazoo
- Thursday, Dec. 7, Ann Arbor Pioneer
- Friday, December 8, MSU Fairchild Theatre with Jazz Orchestras I, II and III
- Saturday, Dec. 9, Carr Center Arts Academy, Detroit
- Sunday, Dec. 10, Traverse City West High School, Traverse City

— more —

MSU Jazz Artist in Residence program presents sizzling fifth-year lineup (cont.)

Jazz Artist in Residence: Helen Sung, jazz piano Residency Schedule Overview February 5-11, 2018

Pianist and composer Helen Sung hails from Houston, Texas, where she attended the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. As aspiring classical pianist, Helen Sung switched to jazz while an undergraduate, and went on to a career of jazz performance and accolades on stages worldwide. Sung will visit, teach and perform with the MSU Jazz Octets I and II at Michigan schools and arts academies in Warren, Hastings, Cheboygan and Detroit.

- Monday, Feb. 5, Press Day, MSUFCU Blue Monday
- Tuesday, Feb. 6, Rehearsals and Workshops at MSU
- Wednesday, Feb. 7, Warren Mott High School, Warren
- Thursday, Feb. 8, First Presbyterian Church with Hastings High School, Hastings
- Friday, Feb. 9, MSU Demonstration Hall with Jazz Octets I, II, III and IV
- Saturday, Feb. 10, Carr Center Arts Academy, Detroit
- Sunday, Feb. 11, Opera House with Cheboygan High School, Cheboygan

Jazz Artist in Residence: Steve Wilson, jazz saxophone Residency Schedule Overview March 19-25, 2018

Saxophonist Steve Wilson has been praised alongside some of the greatest names in jazz, and has received critical acclaim as a bandleader. A musician's musician, Wilson has brought his distinctive sound to more than 150 recordings led by celebrated artists. Wilson will visit, teach and perform with MSU Jazz Orchestra I at Michigan schools, colleges, and arts academies in Rockford, Grosse Ile, Detroit and Midland.

- Monday, March 19, Press Day, MSUFCU Blue Monday
- Tuesday, March 20, Rehearsals and Workshops at MSU
- Wednesday, March 21, Rockford High School with Northview High School, Rockford
- Thursday, March 22, MSU Fairchild Theatre with Jazz Orchestras I, II and III
- Friday, March 23, Location and details to be announced
- Saturday, March 24, Carr Center Arts Academy, Detroit
- Sunday, March 25, Location and details to be announced

—end—

MSU Jazz Artist in Residence presents sizzling fifth-year lineup (cont.)

Artist Bios

Michael Philip Mossman

Michael Philip Mossman has been active on the jazz scene with a virtual who's who of the music industry since he was 17. Early in his career, he played lead trumpet with the Machito Orchestra, Toshiko Akiyoshi, and the Lionel Hampton Orchestra, before joining the Blue Note Ensemble Out of the Blue and the Horace Silver Quintet in the mid-1980s. He has performed and recorded with Dizzy Gillespie, Art Blakey, Joe Henderson, McKoy Tyner, Gerry Mulligan, Joe Zawinul, Slide Hampton, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Jon Faddis, George Gruntz, Bob Mintzer, Steve Turre, Anthony Braxton, Roscoe Mitchell, Tom Pierson, Carnegie Hall Jazz Orchestra, Charles Mingus Orchestra, Benny Carter, Gil Evans Orchestra, and Count Basie Orchestra.

Mossman's Latin Jazz associations include Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri, Chico O'Farrill, Ray Barretto, Daniel Ponce, Israel "Cachao" Lopez, Paquito D'Rivera, Bebo Valdez and Michel Camilo, and worked with Mario Bauza and his Afro Cuban Jazz Orchestra. He has composed, arranged and recorded for orchestras, film, ballet and dance companies; chamber orchestras and classical ensembles; and as a soloist. He is lead trumpeter with Jazz at Lincoln Center's Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, and professor and director of Jazz Studies at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College.

Harvey William Mason

American Jazz Drummer Harvey Mason has been a busy studio musician, jazz artist, record producer, and member of the band Fourplay. Mason attended Berklee College of Music and graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music. He started out playing with the masterful Erroll Garner and George Shearing, and then moved to Los Angeles in the early 1970s to establish himself as a studio musician in film and television. Mason quickly entered the jazz and jazz fusion scene to work with artists like Bob James, Chick Corea, the Brecker Brothers, Chuck Loeb, Nathan East, Lee Ritenour, Herbie Hancock's Headhunters, Gerry Mulligan, Freddie Hubbard, Grover Washington, Jr., and George Benson. In 1975, Mason began recording albums as a leader, the first five for Artista Records. Mason continued with steady session work in early 2000s, and released two solo albums: *Trios* (2003) and *With All My Heart* (2004). In 2014, he revisited his 1970s Headhunters roots with "Chameleon" on Concord.

Helen Sung

Pianist and composer Helen Sung hails from Houston, Texas, where she attended the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. As aspiring classical pianist, Sung switched to jazz while an undergraduate at the University of Texas at Austin. She went on to graduate from the Thelonius Monk Institute of Jazz Performance at the New England Conservatory, and to win the Kennedy Center's Mary Lou Williams Jazz Piano Competition. With five albums as a leader, Sung's sixth release "Anthem for a New Day" on Concord topped jazz radio charts and garnered a SESAC Performance Activity Award. Sung regularly appears at major U.S. festivals like Newport, Monterey, Detroit, SFJZAA and Carnegie Hall, as well as the international stage. She toured southern Africa as a U.S. State Department Jazz Ambassador, performed in CD release tour, and appeared at the London Jazz Festival, Taichung International Jazz Festival, and Morelian Music Festival. She performs with Mingus Big Band, T.S. Monk Band, and Terri Lynne Carrington's Mosaic Project, and has received several commissions and grants for composition, including a grant from Chamber Music America/Doris Duke Foundation. She joined the jazz faculty at the Juilliard School and Columbia University in 2015.

— more —

MSU Jazz Artist in Residence program presents sizzling fifth-year lineup (cont.)

Steve Wilson

Saxophonist Steve Wilson has been praised alongside some of the greatest names in jazz, and received critical acclaim as a bandleader. A musician's musician, Wilson has brought his distinctive sound to more than 150 recordings led by celebrated artists including Chick Corea, George Duke, Michael Brecker, Dave Holland, Dianne Reeves, Bill Bruford, Gerald Wilson, Maria Schneider, Joe Henderson, Charlie Byrd, Billy Childs, Karrin Allyson, Don Byron and Mulgrew Miller. Wilson also has eight recordings as a leader.

Wilson began his formal training on saxophone in his native Hampton, Virginia, after playing oboe and drums in school bands and in R&B/funk bands as a teen. He majored in music at Virginia Commonwealth University and studied with Jimmy and Percy Heath, Jon Hendricks, Jaki Byard, John Hicks, Frank Foster and Ellis Marsalis. During those years, Wilson was in constant demand for recording studio work and as a backing musician for touring shows. He moved to New York in 1987 after landing a chair with the Out of the Blue sextet through Blue Note Records, and later toured the U.S. and Europe with Lionel Hampton. Wilson has been regularly cited in Downbeat Magazine Critics and Readers' Polls, and has been nominated as the best alto and soprano sax player by the Jazz Journalists Association. He is an associate professor at City College of New York, on the faculty of the Juilliard School, served as an artist-in-residence at multiple universities, and been honored by multiple organizations for his outstanding service in jazz education.

—end—