JazzStudies at MSU shares the classroom and stage to help enrich communities and inspire young artists to embody the jazz tradition.
Year four presented a blazing lineup for MSU jazz residency.

An astonishing lineup of jazz artists toured Michigan to teach, mentor and perform from October to March through the MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program coordinated by the MSU College of Music.

The College’s innovative residency program was made possible by a $1 million endowment from the MSU Federal Credit Union. Now entering its fifth year, the program continues to attract high-level talent and serves as a model for jazz studies programs nationwide. The fourth-year residency for the 2016-17 season featured a blazing lineup of working musicians, educators and composers who draw on the jazz tradition.

Jazz Guitarist Russell Malone was the first of the four scheduled residents, followed by Bassist Rufus Reid, Clarinetist-saxophonist Anat Cohen and Trombonist Conrad Herwig. While at MSU, each artist’s weeklong residency included mentoring College of Music students and performing for the campus community, including tours of high schools, art academies and community colleges. Jazz residents were accompanied by the College’s premier student jazz ensemble, MSU Jazz Orchestra I, traveling across Michigan thanks to the support and partnership of Dean Trailways.

The versatile and inspiring lineup provided 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 who shape the world of jazz.

Since its inaugural 2013-14 season, a total of 16 artists have participated in the residency delivering workshops, concerts, events and outreach to more than 27,332 students and adults in communities across Michigan. Guest artists in addition to the 2016-17 season included: Antonio Hart, saxophone; Jon Faddis, trumpet; Jeff Hamilton, drums; Christian McBride, bass; Robin Eubanks, trombone; Peter Bernstein, guitar; Vincent Bowens, saxophone; Tim Froncek, drums; Brian Lynch, trumpet; Jimmy Cobb, drums; Kenny Barron, piano; and Tim Warfield, Jr, saxophone.

MSU’s Jazz Studies program was founded in 2001 and excels in community outreach, engagement and performance opportunities. Musically active faculty help strengthen college programming and instruction in blues-based jazz through professional connections, chart-topping recordings and frequent performances across the U.S. and abroad.

“Thanks to the incredible vision and generosity of the MSU Federal Credit Union, MSU is becoming a center of jazz education, innovation and study that helps ensure that current and future generations can experience this evolving and vibrant art form.”

James Forger, dean, MSU College of Music

“The MSU Federal Credit Union has given us the ability to bring in amazing guest artists and to attract the best and the brightest students and faculty. Their generosity has helped elevate our excellence and education, and establish us as a premier destination for jazz.”

Rodney Whitaker, director of Jazz Studies
MSU College of Music

“Building and maintaining strong, vibrant communities starts with the support of arts and culture. This gift to the College of Music helps to strengthen mid-Michigan’s presence as an exceptional community by providing astonishing opportunities to experience one of America’s greatest art forms: jazz.”

April Clobes, MSUFCU president and CEO
RUSSELL MALONE, JAZZ GUITAR 10/10 – 10/16, 2016
Malone is a versatile performer with a fluid, straight-ahead style. He has worked with master jazz organist Jimmy Smith, toured with Harry Connick, Jr., and toured internationally to critical acclaim with Diana Krall. Malone visited and performed at schools, colleges and arts academies in Byron Center, Detroit, Ludington and Petoskey.

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RUFUS REID, JAZZ BASS 12/5 – 12/11, 2016
Bassist Rufus Reid is one of today’s premier bassists on the international jazz scene. With his reputation firmly established in the education arena, he has also moved more deeply into composing. He visited, taught and performed at schools, colleges and arts academies in Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor, Traverse City and Detroit.

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ANAT COHEN, JAZZ CLARINET 2/6 – 2/12, 2017
Clarinetist-saxophonist Anat Cohen has won hearts and minds the world over with her expressive virtuosity and delightful stage presence. Cohen visited, taught and performed at schools, festivals and arts academies in Mason, Grand Rapids, Rockford, East Lansing, Fowlerville, Williamston, Oxford and Detroit.

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CONRAD HERWIG, JAZZ TROMBONE 3/20 – 3/26, 2017
New York-based Trombonist Conrad Herwig is considered one of the world’s complete jazz musicians, atop both the performing and jazz educational fields with an abundance of composer and arranger credits. He visited, taught and performed at schools, colleges and arts academies in Royal Oak, Spring Lake, Alma and Detroit.

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WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE: music.msu.edu/jazz-residents
See story page 4
See story page 6
See story page 8
See story page 10
Randy Napoleon has never forgotten the night Russell Malone invited him to sit in on a set. Napoleon was the act performing before Malone took the stage at an Ann Arbor dinner club, and was just 16 years old.

That night more than two decades ago, Napoleon says, set the tone for a relationship typical of the jazz tradition—one based on an experienced musician mentoring someone younger. So when the now assistant professor of jazz guitar was asked to bring in a guest guitarist to work with his students at the MSU College of Music, he knew exactly who to call.

“It was a dream come true to invite Russell to mentor my students,” says Napoleon. “He doesn’t mince words when it comes to younger musicians, and his warmth and sense of humor provides a good balance of laying down what needs to happen musically.”

Malone was the first of four critically acclaimed artists to visit the College this academic year through the MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program supported by a $1 million endowment from the MSU Federal Credit Union.

Malone mentored and performed with MSU jazz students Oct. 10-16, and toured with the MSU Jazz Orchestra I to high schools and academies throughout Michigan. His residency included performances at the MSU Federal Credit Union for their Blue Mondays concert series and a public performance at the Fairchild Theatre.

A versatile performer with a fluid, straight-ahead style, Malone has worked with master jazz organist Jimmy Smith, toured with Harry Connick, Jr., and toured internationally to critical acclaim with Diana Krall. Napoleon says, too, Malone’s approachable communication style makes him an ideal teacher and mentor.

“One thing I love about his musical philosophy is everything is common sense,” Napoleon says. “Sometimes education can get a bit abstract. All of Malone’s ideas are very direct, applicable, and extremely easy to understand.”

Like Napoleon, MSU Jazz Studies Graduate Student Jocelyn Gould originally met Malone while opening for his band during a concert series at her alma mater in Canada.

“I was so excited when I heard he was coming to MSU,” says Gould. “Not only was the program’s first artist in residence a guitarist, he was also someone I knew.”

Gould was among the members of Jazz Orchestra I who toured with Malone during his residency. She says Malone’s communication style put her immediately at ease, and she admired his ability to coach musicians of any age.
“He’s incredibly nurturing to younger musicians,” Gould says. “You could see that he came up through the tradition of being mentored by older musicians, and that now he’s interested in being encouraging in the same way. It was incredibly valuable to have the chance to play with him on stage, and to observe the way he interacted with everyone.”

MSU Director of Jazz Studies Rodney Whitaker says the jazz residency program builds on the mentoring tradition that is central to jazz. He says as the program gains momentum, an increasing number of artists and educators perceive the College as a center for jazz studies and performance.

“We are incredibly thankful to the MSU Federal Credit Union for their vision and generosity that make it possible for us to achieve the highest standards of excellence in jazz studies and performance,” says Whitaker. “Having jazz artists such as Mr. Malone share their talents and experiences through residencies strengthens our ability to provide music education and opportunity to students across Michigan.”

MALONE ON THE ROAD

While an MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence in October, jazz guitarist Russell Malone took to the road with the Jazz Orchestra I as part of MSU’s efforts to bring jazz performance and education to Michigan high schools, music academies and colleges.

Destinations and highlights:

Byron Center High School: 450 people attended a community outreach concert; 65 students were involved in workshops.

• Detroit Carr Center: 62 people attended a community outreach concert; four students were involved in a workshop.

• Ludington West Shore Community College: 300 people attended a community outreach concert; 100 students were involved in workshops.

• Petoskey Crooked Tree Arts Center: 200 people attended a community outreach concert; five students participated in a workshop.

What people said:

“As an MSU alumnus, I can tell you that MSU is filling a much-needed void in terms of jazz education. Schools in this state need music educators who have a well-rounded background in classical and jazz idioms to ensure that their students are receiving the most well-rounded music education possible. The MSU College of Music through the generosity of the MSU Federal Credit Union is making this possible. Thank you a million times over.”

- Ted Malt, MSU BA Music Education ’98, Director of the West Shore Community College of Performing Arts and Professor of Jazz Studies

“The experience with the MSU Jazz Program is second to none!”

- Marc Townley, Byron Center High School
Adam Olszewski knows his jazz bassists. As a senior in jazz studies at Michigan State University, the rising young bassist knew all about Rufus Reid—the second of four critically acclaimed artists to visit the College of Music through the 2016-17 MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program.

While Olszweski knew the legendary bassist, educator and composer has played with the likes of Dexter Gordon, Stan Getz and Art Farmer, what he didn’t know was the deep respect Reid has for musicians of all levels.

“He made everyone feel like one of the cats,” says Olszeweski. “Every time he saw you, he would greet you by name, and genuinely ask how you were. It wasn’t something he would put on. He taught and treated students with as much respect as he would a professional. Rapport is a good word to describe him.”

As an MSU Jazz Artist in Residence, Reid mentored and performed with College of Music jazz studies students Dec. 5-11. He also toured with the MSU Jazz Orchestra I to high schools and academies throughout Michigan. His residency was supported through a $1 million endowment by MSU Federal Credit Union, and included performances at the MSUFCU for their Blue Mondays concert series and a public performance at the Fairchild Theatre.

“I’m just incredibly grateful for this program,” says Olszweski. “We’ve all heard that phrase that goes something like, ‘this is the hand that touched the hand that touched the hand of Abraham Lincoln.’ This is like that. Reid has touched the hands of so many musicians who are near and dear to me. Being able to interact with him connects me to that lineage.”

Born in Atlanta in 1944, Reid is one of the premier bassists in the world and a revered educator and composer. He has toured and recorded with Eddie Harris, Nancy Wilson, Harold Land and Bobby Hutcherson, Lee Konitz, the Thad Jones and Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra, Dexter Gordon, J.J. Johnson, Art Farmer, Stan Getz, Kenny Burrell and Kenny Barron. He continues associations with Tim Hagans, Bob Mintzer, Frank Wess, Marvin Stamm and Benny Golson, and tours with his Out Front Trio.

Reid co-created the Jazz Studies & Performance Program at William Paterson University. His 1974 book The Evolving Bassist is considered the industry standard as the definitive
bass method. Reid has participated in the BMI Jazz Composer’s Workshop, and has written for string orchestra, jazz ensembles, concert band, double bass ensemble and solo bass.

Like Olszewski, MSU jazz studies undergraduate Liany Mateo knew Reid was highly respected, influential and came from a long line of jazz bassists with a specific style. She says working directly with Reid gave her a new perspective on how to play the bass, and how to be a good sideman and soloist.

“Working with Reid was a wonderful way to spend my first semester here at MSU and just confirmed how amazing it is here,” says Mateo. “He showed me that it is possible to make a career of this music, especially since he’s one of these older cats and he’s still thriving and doing his thing.”

MSU Director of Jazz Studies Rodney Whitaker says the jazz residency program is based on the mentoring tradition that is central to jazz. Being able to attract artists and educators like Reid, he says, confirms the growing perception of MSU as a premier destination for jazz studies and performance.

“The MSU Federal Credit Union makes it possible for us to bring in outstanding artists and jazz visionaries, and strengthens our ability to provide music education and opportunity to students all across Michigan,” says Whitaker. “We are deeply indebted to the Credit Union for supporting us as we strive for the highest standards of excellence in jazz studies and performance.”

**REID ON THE ROAD**

While an MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence in December, jazz bassist Rufus Reid took to the road with the Jazz Orchestra I as part of MSU’s efforts to bring jazz performance and education to Michigan high schools, music academies and colleges.

**Destinations and highlights:**

- **Hackett Catholic Central High School, Kalamazoo:** 250 people attended a community outreach concert; 48 students were involved in workshops.
- **Traverse City West High School:** 350 people attended a community outreach concert; 37 students were involved in workshops.
- **Detroit First Congregational Church:** 1,000 people attended a community outreach concert for the 44th Annual Noel Night.
- **Ann Arbor Pioneer/Huron High School/Southeastern Music Academy:** 500 people attended a community outreach concert; 55 students were involved in workshops.

**What people said:**

“The MSU Jazz Orchestra was an energetic and entertaining performance. It was inspirational for Mr. Reid to share his experiences of becoming a professional musician.”

- Amanda (freshman) Hackett Catholic Prep High School

“It was awe-inspiring to listen to a performer of Mr. Reid’s caliber perform in my own school. And it was even better to have the opportunity for him to listen to us.”

- Adam (senior) Hackett Catholic Prep High School

Rufus Reid and Rodney Whitaker perform together at the Blue Mondays concert hosted by the MSU Federal Credit Union.

Rufus Reid works with MSU Jazz Studies graduate student Louis Leager.
Tenor saxophonist Ben Stocker draws inspiration from a lot of people and places, including players of the jazz clarinet.

So when Stocker heard that jazz virtuoso Anat Cohen was coming to mentor and perform with students like him at the Michigan State University College of Music, he began to intensely prepare for her weeklong residency in jazz clarinet and saxophone.

“I listened to her records leading up to her visit to prepare to play her music,” says Stocker, a third-year undergraduate in jazz performance. “Those recordings serve as a reminder to me of how incredibly talented she is on the clarinet, and inspire me to be a better clarinet player.”

Cohen was the third of four jazz artists to mentor and perform with College of Music Jazz Studies students through the 2016-17 Jazz Artists in Residence program. Cohen came to campus Feb. 4-11 for a visit that involved touring with the MSU Jazz Octets to high schools, festivals and academies throughout Michigan. Her residency was supported through a $1 million endowment by MSU Federal Credit Union, and included a public performance in the MSU Cook Recital Hall.

Cohen was born in Tel Aviv, Israel, and attended the Tel Aviv School for the Arts, the “Thelma Yellin” High School for the Arts and the Jaffa Music Conservatory. After graduation, she discharged her mandatory Israeli military service duty from 1993-95, playing tenor saxophone in the Israeli Air Force Band. She attended Berklee College of Music in Boston, and spent a decade touring with Sherrie Maricle’s all-woman big band, The Diva Jazz Orchestra. She also worked in Brazilian groups including the Choro Ensemble and Duduka Da Fonseca’s Samba Jazz Quintet.

Cohen is a fixture on the New York scene at clubs such as Birdland, the Village Vanguard, Jazz Standard, Blue Note, Iridium, Joe’s Pub, Greenwich House, and the Jazz Gallery, as well as other top clubs across the country and around the world. She has toured extensively and headlined at the Newport, Umbria, SF Jazz and North Sea jazz festivals. In March 2015, Anzic Records released Luminosa, her seventh album as a bandleader.
Associate Professor of Jazz Studies, Saxophone and Improvisation Diego Rivera says Cohen’s visit inspired all his saxophone students to “dust off their clarinets” and to realize the incredible potential of the instrument. He says Cohen’s residency was a pivotal experience for students, and enabled them to explore a range of styles and genres. He praised her ability to connect with students and audiences through her warm, personal style.

“To describe her as a musician and person is the same thing,” says Rivera. “She’s giving and extremely knowledgeable. And her music is sophisticated and complex but not inaccessible in any way. She commands an incredible amount of respect, and it’s returned—both from students and audiences.”

MSU Director of Jazz Studies Rodney Whitaker says being able to bring acclaimed musicians like Cohen to MSU is indicative of the growing momentum surrounding the jazz residency program.

“The MSU College of Music is continuing to rise to the top as a center of excellence in jazz education and performance,” says Whitaker. “All of us here in Jazz Studies owe our continual thanks to the MSU Federal Credit Union for their support of our quest to preserve and advance the American art form of jazz through music education and opportunity.”

**COHEN ON THE ROAD**

While an MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence in February, jazz clarinetist-saxophonist Anat Cohen took to the road with the Jazz Octets as part of MSU’s efforts to bring jazz performance and education to Michigan high schools, music academies and colleges.

- **Carr Center Arts Academy, Detroit:** 100 people attended a community outreach concert involving five students.

- **MSBOA District 8 Jazz Festival, Mason:** 350 people attended the Cohen and Jazz Octets performance at an annual jazz festival for high school students.

- **Northview High School, Grand Rapids; Rockford High School, Rockford:** 535 people attended a community outreach concert; 43 students were involved in workshops.

- **East Lansing High School, East Lansing; Fowlerville High School:** 75 East Lansing students and 350 Fowlerville students were involved in workshops and performances.

- **Williamston High School, Williamston:** 250 students attended a school assembly and performance.

- **Oxford High School, Oxford:** 130 people attended a community outreach concert; 35 students were involved in workshops.

**What people said:**

“Thank you all!! What an amazing night. I think the word of the night was musical JOY!! What a blessing! Anat’s playing was truly the embodiment of JOY!!! The night was so humbling, rewarding, and without ego for any group/individuals. It was the way it was supposed to be—about the art of music making and sharing with others! I’m still on cloud nine right now.”

- Greg Wells, Director, Northview High School

“Last night was a night we will not forget and we are so humbled to be a part of this wonderful collaboration with MSU!! The students and I are still buzzing on cloud 9 as well. Honored!!”

- Cullen McCarthy, Director, Rockford High School
Grammy award-winning trombonist Michael Dease understands the tradition of mentorship in the world of jazz. So when the MSU assistant professor of jazz trombone was asked to suggest a trombonist for the MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program in the College of Music, one came immediately to mind.

“Conrad Herwig is one in a handful of players who has revitalized the trombone’s image at certain intervals throughout the history of jazz,” says Dease. “It is impossible to overestimate the value of experiencing the methods, practice rituals, and mindset of an artist like Conrad.”

Dease first met the master trombonist in the late 1990s when Herwig conducted Dease’s all-state high school jazz program in Atlanta, Georgia. Dease went on to perform and study jazz in New York and says he and Herwig kept in touch. The two occasionally crossed paths within their musical networks and gigs, and recently reconnected through a jazz and trombone summit curated by MSU alumni.

“After seeing his thoughtful interactions with students at those events, I knew he would be an excellent choice for the next residency,” Dease says.

The New-York based Herwig has released 20 recordings as a leader and contributed to nearly 200 other recording sessions with some of the most notable artists in jazz, including Miles Davis, Joe Henderson, Eddie Palmieri, Tito Puente, Frank Sinatra, Joe Lovano and Tom Harrell. Herwig received his bachelor’s degree in Afro-Caribbean ethnomusicology from Goddard College in Vermont, and completed his formal studies with a master’s degree in jazz studies from Queens College. His career includes big band stints with Clark Terry, Cab Calloway, Buddy Rich, Toshiko Akiyoshi and Mel Lewis, and worked a number of years with the Frank Sinatra Orchestra. He is a professor of jazz trombone, jazz improvisation and jazz composition and arranging at Rutgers University, as well as a visiting professor of jazz studies at the Juilliard School.

Herwig was the fourth of four critically acclaimed artists to come to MSU this academic year through the jazz residency program supported by a $1 million endowment from the MSU Federal Credit Union. Herwig mentored and performed with MSU jazz students from March 18-26, and also took to the road with MSU Jazz Orchestra I to visit high schools and academies throughout Michigan. Herwig’s packed residency included public performances at the MSU Federal Credit Union and in the Pasant Theatre of MSU’s Wharton Center for Performing Arts.

MSU Jazz Studies undergraduate and trombonist Emily Malak says one of the biggest things she learned from Herwig was that music isn’t simply about the notes someone plays, but it’s also about the passion the player brings to the music. She says she heard that message time and again throughout his residency, and was impressed by his devotion to passing along the tradition and knowledge of jazz music to the next generation.
“He emphasized the importance of how mastery on playing one’s instrument and how learning jazz takes time, practice and patience,” she says. “He taught us that we must have a deep understanding of the fundamentals and roots of jazz, and that music has the ability to touch and change people’s lives.”

MSU Director of Jazz Studies Rodney Whitaker says that bringing influential jazz artists to MSU to work and tour with students is an extraordinary experience. Those visits, he says, also solidify the College’s position as a center for jazz studies, as well as a provider of music education and performance opportunities for students across Michigan.

“We’re always asked how we do what we do,” says Whitaker. “With all sincerity and gratitude we say it wouldn’t happen without the generosity and vision of the MSU Federal Credit Union. Their support makes it possible to bring in influential jazz artists, and to achieve the highest standards of excellence in jazz education and performance.”

**HERWIG ON THE ROAD**

While an MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence in March, Trombonist Conrad Herwig took to the road with Jazz Orchestra I as part of MSU’s efforts to bring jazz performance and education to Michigan high schools, music academies, and colleges.

**Destinations and highlights:**

- **Detroit Carr Center Arts Academy:** 20 students participated in an outreach concert that was attended by 100 community members.

- **Royal Oak High School:** 25 students participated in an outreach concert that was attended by 300 community members.

- **Spring Lake High School:** 35 middle school students and 20 high school students participated in an outreach concert that was attended by 300 community members.

- **Alma High School:** 28 students from Alma participated in an outreach concert that was attended by 120 community members.

**What people said:**

“It was a privilege to have Professor Whitaker, Professor Dease, MSUFCU guest artist Conrad Herwig, and members of the BeBop Spartans working with our students during the clinic in the afternoon. The evening concert was terrific and the crowd enjoyed it.”

  - Mike Truszkowski, Director, Spring Lake High School

“The concert received rave reviews. I want to thank you, Rodney, the students and the MSU Federal Credit Union for making this possible. The opportunity to play with Conrad and Michael was a once-in-a-lifetime event for me I’m sure.”

  - David Jensen, Band Director, Royal Oak

“My experience at this year’s Jazz Expo was amazing. It was so nice to be able to hear such great talent and experienced professionals at such a young age! I loved getting to hear Conrad Herwig. It was also very nice to finally have a full trombone section behind me. I look forward to this every year, and hope it returns again.”

  - Dallas St. Onge, Student at Jazz Expo, Royal Oak High School
ANNOUNCING
2017/18 MSU FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Jazz Artists in Residence

10/9 – 10/15
Michael Phillip Mossman
jazz trumpet
Blue Mondays
Oct. 9, 6 p.m.
With MSU Jazz Orchestras I, II, III Oct. 13, 8 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre

12/4 – 12/10
Harvey Mason
jazz drums
Blue Mondays Dec. 4, 6 p.m.
With MSU Jazz Orchestras I, II, III Dec. 8, 8 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre

2/5 – 2/11
Helen Sung
jazz piano
Blue Mondays Feb. 5, 6 p.m.
With MSU Jazz Octets Feb. 10, 8 p.m.
Demonstration Hall

3/19 – 3/25
Steve Wilson
jazz saxophone
Blue Mondays Mar. 19, 6 p.m.
With MSU Jazz Orchestras I, II, III Mar. 22, 7:30 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre