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MSU Jazz Studies Rings in 25 Years with Guest Trumpeter Sean Jones

Acclaimed Artist in Residence joins MSU Jazz Orchestras for concert and regional tour.

EAST LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan State University College of Music kicks off its **25th anniversary celebration of the Jazz Studies Program**, led by bassist and director [Rodney Whitaker](#), with the opening concert of the MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU) Jazz Artist in Residence series. On **Sunday, October 12** at 3:00 p.m. in Fairchild Theatre, MSU Jazz Orchestras will share the stage with renowned [jazz trumpeter Sean Jones](#), acclaimed for his soaring sound, commanding technique, and deeply expressive style.

The [MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program](#), now in its 13th year, is a well-established program that has brought nearly 50 highly acclaimed guest artists to campus since its beginnings. Artists spend a week working closely with students through masterclasses and workshops, while also touring regionally with MSU jazz ensembles to mentor aspiring jazz musicians at middle and high schools. The residency culminates in a public concert, giving greater Lansing jazz fans the chance to experience these artists alongside MSU's own nationally recognized ensembles.

“Thanks to the continued generosity of the MSU Federal Credit Union, hosting top-tier jazz artists has become an essential part of our program,” said Whitaker. “We’re thrilled to welcome Sean Jones to MSU as we kick off this year’s residency series and celebrate 25 years of Jazz Studies at the College.”

Praised as a leading voice in jazz trumpet, Jones served as lead trumpeter of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra for several years and has built an international reputation as a soloist, bandleader, and educator. His artistry bridges the depth of jazz tradition with a spirit of innovation, qualities that make him a compelling performer and mentor for aspiring jazz musicians.

“Sean Jones is one of the most inspiring trumpet voices in jazz today,” said [Anthony Stanco](#), Assistant Professor of Jazz Trumpet. “Our students are eager to learn from him, and I personally look forward to sharing the stage with him. I think our audiences will be captivated by the energy and artistry he brings.”

Jones’s residency marks the [first of four dynamic artists](#) visiting during the 2025–26 season. Later residencies will feature **René Marie** (jazz voice, Dec. 7, 2025), **Harvey Mason** (jazz drums, Mar. 15, 2026), and **Anat Cohen** (jazz clarinet, Apr. 18, 2026).

Launched in 2013 through a \$1 million endowment from MSUFCU, the residency program represents the largest investment in the College’s jazz program. Each year, guest artists perform across the state in more than a dozen concerts and educational events with MSU ensembles, providing valuable learning opportunities for students and bringing jazz into communities that rarely have access to live performances of this caliber.

Reserved seating tickets are \$19 for adults, \$17 for seniors (age 60 and older), and \$9 for students with ID and anyone under 18, and can be purchased online (music.msu.edu), by calling (517) 353-5340, or at the door.

The Artist in Residence schedule for Jones, along with details about other guests in the series are continued on the next page.

2025–2026 Jazz Artists in Residence Schedules

Sean Jones, trumpet, October 6–12, 2025

For a full bio, visit: <https://peabody.jhu.edu/faculty/sean-jones/>

- Monday, Oct. 6, 6 PM [Blue Mondays, MSU Federal Credit Union](#)
- Wednesday, Oct. 8, 7:00 PM PM Workshop/Concert, Community Music School—Detroit, 3408 Woodward Ave., Detroit
- Thursday, Oct. 9, Concert, 7:00, PM Byron Center High School, 8500 Burlingame Ave. SW, Byron Center,
- Friday, Oct. 10, Concert, 7:30 PM, The Carr Center, 15 E Kirby St., Detroit
- Saturday, Oct. 11, Concert, 3:00 PM, City Opera House, 106 E. Front St., Traverse City
- Sunday, Oct. 12, Concert, 3:00 PM, MSU Auditorium, Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd., East Lansing

René Marie, voice, December 1–7, 2025

For a full bio, visit: <https://renemarie.com/about/>

René Marie is a GRAMMY-nominated vocalist, composer, arranger, educator, and activist whose artistry spans jazz, folk, Americana, and classical influences. Known for her powerful storytelling and rich hybrid style, she has released 11 recordings and performed worldwide. Her work draws from her southern upbringing and deep life experiences, delivering performances that celebrate both musical tradition and human resilience.

Harvey Mason, drums, March 9–15, 2026

For a complete bio, visit: <https://harveymasonmusic.com/bio/>

Harvey Mason is one of the most recorded and in-demand drummers in contemporary jazz. His decades-long career includes founding the group Fourplay, performing with Herbie Hancock's Headhunters, and contributing to hundreds of recordings across genres. Beyond his instrumental mastery, Mason has also produced, composed, and scored works for film and studio, making him a versatile force in jazz and popular music.

Anat Cohen, clarinet and saxophone, April 13–18, 2026

For a complete bio, visit: <https://www.anatcohen.com/about>

Anat Cohen is an internationally celebrated clarinetist and saxophonist known for her expressive virtuosity and blending of jazz, Brazilian choro, and traditional styles. Born in Tel Aviv and trained at Berklee, she has won multiple awards, performed globally, and built a reputation for joyful, dynamic performances. Whether leading her own bands or collaborating with others, Cohen brings warmth and inventiveness to every stage.

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