

Legendary jazz drummer, Jimmy Cobb, to teach, perform at MSU

Bridgette Redman, For the Lansing State Journal 12:02 a.m. EST November 20, 2015



(Photo: Photograph courtesy jimmycobb.com)

A legend is coming to Michigan State University to take up residency next week.

Jimmy Cobb is the drummer on some of the major pieces of jazz recording in American history. He was part of the masterpiece, "Kind of Blue", the most popular jazz recording in history. From 1957 to 1963 he played with Miles Davis, John Coltrane and Cannonball Adderly. He performed with Dinah Washington, Pearl Bailey, Clark Terry, Dizzy Gillespie, Sarah Vaughan and Billie Holiday.

And he'll be working with MSU students from Nov 30 to Dec. 6, teaching and performing as part of the MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program.

"Jimmy Cobb is a living legend and jazz icon," said Director of Jazz Studies Rodney Whitaker. "Along with Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Bill Evans, Cannonball Adderly and Paul Chambers, he helped to transform jazz. Just imagine: my students have an opportunity to spend a whole week with him."

During the seven days, he'll tour with MSU's Jazz Orchestra 1 performing campus concerts and traveling to music programs in public schools in Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor, Traverse City and Detroit.

Cobb also played on "Sketches of Spain", "Someday My Prince Will Come", "Live at Carnegie Hall", "Live at the Blackhawk", "Porgy and Bess" and many other watershed Miles Davis recordings.

In 2008, Cobb received the Don Redman Heritage Award, followed in 2009 by the National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters Award.

He leads Jimmy Cobb's Mob in New York City and tours internationally in Japan, China, Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy and South Africa.

He will be performing throughout his stay, and many of the performances are open to the public. The main performance is at the Fairchild Theater in the MSU Auditorium on Friday, Dec. 4 at 8 p.m.

The concert will also showcase performances of MSU Jazz Orchestras I and II. The tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and are available from the College of Music box office. 517-353-5340. Admission is free to students with ID and those under 18 years of age.

Cobb comes as part of the jazz residency program at MSU that is designed to attract high-level talent and serve as a model for jazz studies programs nationwide. It is now in its third year. Later this year, pianist Kenny Barron and jazz saxophonist Tim Warfield will be in residence with a similar program.

Encore!

•**The MSU Wind Symphony and Symphony Orchestra** will perform at Wharton's Cobb Great Hall on Friday at 8 p.m. Kevin L. Sedatole and Kevin Noe will conduct while Steven Bryant is the guest composer. It features works by Bryant, Corigliano/Thornton, Ravel and Beethoven. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, free for students.

•**The performers of DANCE Lansing:** A Community Dance Project put on a concert "Soar," this Sunday at 1 p.m. After the performance there will be a talkback with the dancers and choreographers.

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