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**MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence Program to showcase Michigan talent**

Vincent Bowens and Tim Froncek headline performances and workshops Feb. 16-20

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – Two influential Michigan jazz musicians will visit the Michigan State University College of Music and surrounding community in February as the **MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence** program expands to showcase Michigan talent.

Saxophonist and flutist Vincent Bowens and drummer Tim Froncek will be in residence **Feb. 16-20** as the first “**Michigan Icons**” participating in MSU’s residency program for prominent jazz artists. Launched in 2013, the Jazz Artist in Residence program was made possible by a $1 million endowment from the MSU Federal Credit Union.

Bowens and Froncek will instruct, perform, and tour with MSU’s Jazz Octets during a five-day residency packed with workshops, master classes, and campus concerts. Both artists will also take to the road to perform and visit jazz programs at Mid-Michigan elementary, middle, and high schools in East Lansing, Eaton Rapids, Fowlerville, Holt, Okemos, and Williamston.

“Long before I had an opportunity to perform with musicians in New York City, as a young musician growing up in Michigan, I had already been exposed to some of the greatest musicians and mentors around,“ says Director of Jazz Studies Rodney Whitaker. “This new component of our jazz residency program allows us to expose the greater Lansing community to a wealth of Michigan based artists—such as Vincent Bowens and Tim Froncek.”

Saxophonist Vincent Bowens grew up in Detroit, Mich., and studied music at Sidney D. Miller Junior High and Martin Luther King High School. As a teen, he participated in inner-city youth programs through the Metro Arts Complex where he learned from veteran musicians such as Marcus Belgrave, Sam Sanders, Kenny Cox, Teddy Harris, and Hal McKinney. Bowens later studied jazz at Oakland University under Marvin “Doc” Holladay.

A fixture in Detroit musical culture, Bowens has performed, collaborated, and toured with regional jazz greats like Roy Brooks, Marion Hayden, Geri Allen, Bob Hurst, Eddie Jefferson, Jack McDuff, Lawrence Williams, Francisco Catlett Mora, Rodney Whitaker, and countless others. He has recorded with Kenny Cox, Leon Henderson, Charles Moore, Kamau Kenyatta, Bigger, Rayse Biggs, Walt Symanski, and Jeribu Shahid. Bowens is a member of the Teddy Harris New Breed Bebop Society and Ed Nuccilli & Plural Circle. See full bio and download high-res photo of [Bowens here](#).
Tim Froncek is a drummer, musical director, teacher, and lecturer. He was voted 2004’s “Jazz Musician of the Year” by the West Michigan Jazz Society. He has performed with jazz greats including Woody Herman and the Thundering Herd, Bobby Shew, Bill Watrous, Randy Brecker, Phil Woods, Rufus Reid, and Jon Faddis. Froncek's passion for jazz started with his interest in the music's beat and groove, which drew him to the drums. As a teacher, he directs the jazz program at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. Froncek is an affiliate professor at Grand Valley State University and is musical director of the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra and Muskegon’s Truth in Jazz Orchestra. See full bio and download high-res photo of Froncek here.

“We’re incredibly grateful to the MSU Federal Credit Union for continuing to help the jazz studies program expand and create new opportunities,” says Whitaker. “At its core, jazz and jazz education is about mentorship and community. This program provides new ways to make this possible.”

Bowens and Froncek will perform with MSU’s four Jazz Octets (directed by Rodney Whitaker) at the Cook Recital Hall in the MSU Music Building, 333 W. Circle Drive, on Feb. 20, at 8 p.m. General admission tickets are $10 for adults, $8 for seniors, and are available from the College of Music box office—in person at the Music Building, Room 102, 333 W. Circle Drive or over the phone at (517) 353-5340—online at music.msu.edu, or at the door one hour before the show. Admission is free to students with ID and those under 18 years of age.

Guitarist Peter Bernstein will follow the two Michigan Icons with a weeklong residency from March 2-8, 2015. Jazz bassist Christian McBride was the first artist in the 2014-15 program line-up with a weeklong residency in early October. Jazz trombonist Robin Eubanks was in residence at MSU for the first week of December.

Schedule: Michigan Icons Vincent Bowens and Tim Froncek

- **Monday, Feb. 16**, Rehearsals with MSU Jazz Octets; Jazz Forum, 8 p.m. Music Practice Building
- **Tuesday, Feb. 17**, Workshops with MSU College of Music students
- **Wednesday, Feb. 18**, Master class with MSU College of Music students
- **Thursday, Feb. 19**, School visits and performances, Okemos High School, East Lansing High School, Holt High School, Eaton Rapids High School
- **Friday, Feb. 20**, School visits and performances, Williamston Middle School, East Lansing Glencairn Elementary, Fowlerville High School. Performance with Jazz Octets, 8 p.m. Cook Recital Hall

Visit [music.msu.edu/jazz-residents](http://music.msu.edu/jazz-residents) for more information about this season’s MSU Federal Credit Union Jazz Artists in Residence Program.