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Stars align for second year of MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence Program

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – Michigan jazzed up last year. And thanks to a \$1 million endowment from the MSU Federal Credit Union, the MSU College of Music will shine with a stellar lineup for the second year of the jazz studies artist-in-residence program that runs from October through March.

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 the world's very best jazz musicians. Fueled by last year's momentum, the 2014-15 program features a blazing line-up of critically acclaimed musicians from the international, national and regional scene, including **Christian McBride, Robin Eubanks, Peter Bernstein, and Michigan jazz icons Tim Froncek and George Benson.**

“Because of the generous gift from the MSU Federal Credit Union, we can provide unforgettable musical and educational experiences for our students and for thousands of people across Michigan,” says James Forger, dean of the MSU College of Music. “The effect of this generous investment in our curriculum will be profoundly felt for generations.”

Jazz bassist **Christian McBride** will be the first of five scheduled artists for residencies this academic year, and will be with MSU jazz studies from October 6-12. McBride is one of the premier jazz bassists in the world, as well as a composer, arranger, educator, curator, and administrator. While at MSU, McBride will teach College of Music students and perform for the public. **McBride performs with MSU Jazz Orchestra I on October 10, 8:00 p.m., Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium.** His residency will also involve visiting high school and middle school jazz programs across the state. Jazz Orchestra I, the college's premier student jazz ensemble, will tour with McBride.

Trombonist Robin Eubanks, and guitarist Peter Berstein follow in the line-up of international jazz artists in residence at MSU in December and March, respectively. Two Michigan jazz icons—Tim Froncek, drummer and George Benson, saxophonist—will also heat up campus in mid-February as a new component of the program showcasing Michigan artists.

“The Credit Union's gift catapults us to the top five or 10 jazz programs in the country,” says Director of Jazz Studies Rodney Whitaker. “It's made us more visible. We've become a model. Every jazz program director I know is asking how we do what we do.”

In the first year of the MSUFCU program in 2013-14, guest artists Antonio Hart, saxophone; Jon Faddis, trumpet; and Jeff Hamilton, drums, lit up the campus and community with weeklong residencies that involved student workshops, concerts, events, and outreach to 7,850 students and adults in communities and schools across the state.

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MSU jazzes up with second year of artist in residency program (cont.)

“Integrating arts and culture along with economic development helps to create an enriched community,” says Patrick McPharlin, president and CEO of MSUFCU. “This gift will also provide opportunities for students and the community to experience world-renowned jazz artists close to home.”

Artist Schedules

Jazz Artist in Residence: Christian McBride

Residency Schedule Overview

October 6-12, 2014

Christian McBride is one of the premier bassists in the world, as well as a composer, arranger, educator, curator and administrator.

Monday, October 6, Blue Monday MSUFCU and Jazz Forum

Tuesday, October 7, Rehearsals and Workshops at MSU

Wednesday, October 8, Rehearsals and Master Class at MSU

Thursday, October 9, Byron Center High School, Byron Center, Mich.

Friday, October 10, Cass Tech High School in Detroit

Friday, October 10, 8:00 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium

Saturday, October 11, School visits in Ludington, Mich.

Sunday, October 12, Schoolcraft College, Livonia, Mich.

Jazz Artist in Residence: Robin Eubanks, trombonist

Residency Schedule Overview

December 1-7, 2014

Robin Eubanks plays trombone with his groups EB3 and Mental Images, the San Francisco Jazz Collective, and the critically acclaimed Dave Holland Quintet. Eubanks will visit schools in Kalamazoo, Clarkston, and Holland, Mich.

Michigan Icons: George Benson, saxophonist, and Tim Froncek, drummer

Visit Dates

February 16-20, 2015

From Satchmo to Motown, saxophonist George Benson’s vast performance credits range from Louis Armstrong to Lena Horne, Stevie Wonder to Lionel Hampton, and Ella Fitzgerald to Milton Berle.

Tim Froncek is one of the most in-demand drummers in the Midwest and was a member of Woody Herman’s Thundering Herd. Benson and Froncek will make local stops at schools in East Lansing, Okemos, and Holt, Mich.

Jazz Artist in Residence: Peter Bernstein, guitarist

Residency Schedule Overview

March 2-8, 2015

Peter Bernstein has been a part of the jazz scene in New York and abroad since 1989. He is one of the most recorded jazz artists of his generation. Bernstein will visit schools in Detroit, Royal Oak, Spring Lake, and Holland, Mich.

MSU jazzes up with second year of artist in residency program (cont.)

Artist Bios



Christian McBride

Bassist, composer, arranger, educator, curator, and administrator, Christian McBride has contributed greatly to the jazz world in the last 20 years. Beginning in 1989, this Philadelphia-born bassist moved to New York City to further his classical studies at the Juilliard School, only to be snatched up by alto saxophonist, Bobby Watson. Since then, McBride's list of accomplishments has been nothing short of staggering. McBride has made numerous recordings, his latest with his trio, entitled "Out Here," and appeared with many musicians in the jazz, R&B, and pop worlds: Milt Jackson, Roy Haynes, Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, and Pat Metheny, as well as playing with and/or arranging for the likes of Isaac Hayes, Chaka Khan, Lalah Hathaway, Sting, and James Brown.



Robin Eubanks

As a jazz trombonist, Robin Eubanks performs with his groups, EB3 or Mental Images, and with the critically acclaimed Dave Holland Quintet and Big Band. He has recorded seven albums as a leader featuring his original music. As part of a musical family, Eubanks' mother has been a music educator for more than 30 years, brother, Kevin Eubanks, is the music director for The Tonight Show, and brother, Duane plays trumpet in New York. Their uncle Ray Bryant is a prominent jazz pianist. Eubanks is a tenured Professor of Jazz Trombone at The Oberlin College Conservatory. He has won several compositional grants. With his latest release, *Klassik Rock Volume 1*, he cements his position as a progressive giant in music.



Peter Bernstein

Jazz guitarist Peter Bernstein has participated in more than 80 recordings and numerous performances with musicians from all generations. As a leader, he has released nine albums and a DVD. While attending the New School he met legendary guitarist Jim Hall, who noted that Bernstein "...is the most impressive guitarist I've heard." Peter was a regular member of Lou Donaldson's group throughout the 1990s. "Some people just have it," Donaldson said. "...Most of the time you have to teach someone what to do, but Peter knows it all." Bernstein's recent release, *Solo Guitar – Live at Smalls*, is an intimate recording that seems as if you're sitting in the front row at Smalls jazz club in New York City.



George Benson

George Benson played his first professional job at age sixteen with a big band, and his father had to sign for him to enter the musicians union. After being drafted, Benson joined the 264th Army Band stationed in Hawaii. He also played bassoon in the All Service Band. Benson continued his musical career as both a leader and a sought-after sideman. George was a vital part of many of the Motown recordings throughout the 1960s, and George is well known as a teacher. He wrote a book, entitled "Jazz Etudes Over Classic Jazz Changes." In 1988, Benson received the "National Association of Jazz Educator's Outstanding Service to Jazz Education" award. He recently released a recording "George Benson Sax Master."



Tim Froncek

Tim Froncek, musical director and drummer, is also a 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 has always been interested in jazz music because of the beat and the 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.