

MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence Program welcomes legendary drummer Jimmy Cobb

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – Michigan will get “kind-of blue” this fall as the legendary jazz drummer and elder statesman for bands fronted by Miles Davis, John Coltrane and other jazz icons visits the Michigan State University College of Music for a weeklong residency made possible by a \$1 million endowment from the MSU Federal Credit Union.

Jazz drummer Jimmy Cobb will be at MSU from Nov. 30-Dec. 6 where he will teach and work with students through the MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program. While in residence, Cobb will instruct, perform, and tour with MSU's Jazz Orchestra I during a seven-day gig packed with workshops and campus concerts. Cobb and the jazz orchestra will also take to the road to visit music and jazz programs at public schools and academies in Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor, Traverse City and Detroit.

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

A mostly self-taught musician, Cobb’s inspirational work with Davis, John Coltrane and Cannonball Adderley and Co. spanned from 1957 to 1963, and included the masterpiece “Kind of Blue”—the most popular jazz recording in history. He 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 addition to Davis, Coltrane, and Adderley, Cobb has worked extensively with a range of artists including Dinah

Washington, Pearl Bailey, Clark Terry, Dizzy Gillespie, Sarah Vaughan and Billie Holiday. In 2008, Cobb received the Don Redman Heritage Award, followed in 2009 by the National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters Award. He remains active, leading Jimmy Cobb's Mob in New York City and touring internationally in Japan, China, Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy and South Africa.

Cobb will perform with MSU Jazz Orchestra I, directed by Rodney Whitaker, 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 II and II.

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.

Now in its third year, the innovative jazz residency program continues to attract high-level talent and serve as a model for jazz studies programs nationwide. Pianist Kenny Barron will be the third critically acclaimed jazz artist in residence for the 2015-16 season. Barron will visit MSU Feb. 8-14, 2016, followed by jazz saxophonist Tim Warfield from Feb. 29-March 6, 2016. Jazz trumpeter Brian Lynch kicked off this year's line-up with a weeklong residency in early October.

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