



presents

Celebrating Bird: A Tribute to Charlie Parker

A Faculty Concert by Fumi Tomita, jazz bass

Jeffrey W. Holmes, piano

Tom Giampietro, drums

With special guest David Detweiler, tenor saxophone

October 6, 2021 7:30 p.m.

Bezanson Recital Hall

UMassAmherst

College of Humanities
& Fine Arts
Music and Dance

Program

*All works by Fumi Tomita or David Detweiler **

Oceanology

Like Sigmund

Capital Circle *

Waltz of the Moon *

Intersection *

Bird Dreams

Alice Changes

Charlie Parker (a.k.a. **Bird** or **Yardbird**, 1920-1955) was an American alto saxophonist, composer, and bandleader, who is generally considered the greatest jazz saxophonist and one of the most innovative and influential instrumentalists of jazz. Together with John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie, Parker was instrumental in the development of a new, modern jazz idiom known as bebop. Introducing advanced levels of performance, Parker changed the direction of jazz as a music to be listened rather than danced to. Along with Louis Armstrong and Ornette Coleman, he was one of the three great revolutionary geniuses in jazz.

Released in September 2020, **Celebrating Bird: A Tribute to Charlie Parker** is a joint recording project between bassist Fumi Tomita and tenor saxophonist David Detweiler that commemorates the centennial of the great saxophonist’s birth. Parker popularized the jazz compositional technique known as ‘contrefacts’, the composition of a new melody over preexisting harmonic structure and **Celebrating Bird** consists of a series of contrefacts based on songs written or popularized by Charlie Parker.

Performer Bios

Bassist, composer, and educator **Fumi Tomita** was active in the New York jazz scene for over fifteen years. His 2019 recording, *The Elephant Vanishes: Jazz Interpretations of the Short Stories of Haruki Murakami*, was released to critical acclaim by Origin Arts records and was listed in the top ten records of 2019 by Jazziz. He also appears as a member of HGTS on their debut release *And Then They Played...* released in April 2020 by Summit Records. *Celebrating Bird: A Tribute to Charlie Parker*, a collaboration with saxophonist David Detweiler, was released in Sept. 2020 by Next Level Music.

He has presented his research at the International Society of Bassists Conference, Issues in Contemporary Jazz, Jazz Education Network, International Society for Improvised Music, BassEurope, Massachusetts Music Educators Association, and the National Association for Music Education. His article “As Long As There’s Music: Spirituality in Charlie Haden’s Performance and Solo on “Irene”” was published in *Jazz Perspectives* in the fall of 2019. His book “The Jazz Rhythm Section” was published by Rowman & Littlefield in conjunction with NAFME in 2019. Additionally, he has published articles in *Bass world*, *Jazz Perspectives*, and the *Massachusetts Music Educators’ Journal* and is preparing his second book for the State University of New York Press, *Introduction to Early Jazz*. He is currently Assistant Professor of Jazz at UMass Amherst.

Guest tenor saxophonist, composer, educator, and Vandoren Artist **David Detweiler** earned his BM from William Paterson University, MM from Florida State University (2010), and DMA from the Eastman School of Music (2015). In 2016, David joined the Florida State University faculty as Assistant Professor of Jazz Saxophone after serving as Director of Jazz Studies at Nazareth College in Rochester, NY. He has released three albums as a leader - *New York Stories*; *The David Detweiler Trio Featuring Fumi Tomita and Alex Patrick*; with his third album, *Astoria Suite*, released this year on NextLevel. David has performed and presented research at numerous conferences including the Jazz Education Network (JEN), the College Music Society (CMS), and the North American Saxophone Alliance (NASA).

Jeffrey W. Holmes is Director of Jazz and African-American Music Studies (JAAMS) and the award-winning UMass Jazz Ensemble I and Studio Orchestra at UMass Amherst. Students in the JAAMS program have won over 55 DownBeat Magazine Awards in virtually every annual collegiate category. Holmes is a nationally-commissioned and published composer/arranger, and a multiple recipient of NEA Composition Grants. He has toured extensively, and was a featured artist on the Jazz at the Kennedy Center series in Washington D.C. He leads the Jeff Holmes Big Band featuring his wife vocalist Dawning Holmes, and the

Jeff Holmes Quartet. He also performs with the Paul Winter Consort (piano) and numerous big bands (lead trumpet, drums). Holmes is a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Association of Jazz Educators. He is also Artistic Director of Jazz In July Summer Workshops at UMass, and has contributed thirty jazz biographical entries to the New Grove Dictionary of American Music (Oxford Press).

Thomas Giampietro is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Jazz Studies program at UMass Amherst. He has also taught at Vanderbilt University, Middle Tennessee State University and The University of Northern Iowa. He has appeared on over 30 recordings, playing drum set in music from jazz to bluegrass. Mr. Giampietro was an original member of Grammy-winning saxophonist Jeff Coffin's eclectic jazz group the Mu'tet, and has toured and recorded with such artists as Casey Driessen, Darrel Scott and Tim O'Brien. He has also been active in leading his own group in and around the Nashville area. Mr. Giampietro endorses Sabian Cymbals, Vic Firth Drumsticks and Brushes and Remo Drumheads.

*Please turn off all noise producing or light emitting devices,
and remain masked at all times.*

Upcoming Music & Dance Events

Guest Artist Concert - Mike Truesdell, percussion

Sunday October 17, 4:30 pm, Bezanson Hall

Part of day-long Percussion Day at UMass

Jazz Ensemble I & Chapel Jazz

Tuesday October 19, 7:30 pm, Bowker Auditorium

Guest Artist Concert: Steven Beck, piano

Wednesday, October 20, 7:30 pm, Bezanson Hall

Complete solo piano sonatas by George Walker

Wind Ensemble & Symphony Band

Friday October 22, 7:30 pm, Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

Graduate Jazz Composers' Ensemble

Tuesday October 26, 7:30 pm, Bezanson Hall

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