

4th Annual Hudson Jazz Workshop

Thursday, August 12 through Sunday August 15, 2010

Armen Donelian and Marc Mommaas, Faculty

Guest Artist Jim McNeely

And

Concert of the Hudson Jazz Workshop

Sunday August 15, 2010, 3pm

**Armen Donelian, Marc Mommaas, Jim McNeely
and Workshop Participants**

Hudson Jazzworks presents the 4th Annual Hudson Jazz Workshop in Hudson, NY, from Thursday, August 12 through Sunday August 15, 2010. This inspiring and intimate Workshop provides a weekend immersion in Jazz improvisational duo playing and composition with two of today's leading performers and teachers, Armen Donelian and Marc Mommaas. Guest Artist on Sunday, August 15, will be Jim McNeely.

Open to aspiring instrumental and vocal musicians, the Hudson Jazz Workshop is an international and intergenerational program and offers a relaxed yet focused atmosphere conducive to intense study. Daily individual and group instruction covers the art of Jazz improvisation, duo playing, technique, composition, harmony, accompaniment, rhythm and repertoire. Performance practicum ("jam") sessions are held each evening.

On Sunday, August 15, Guest Artist Jim McNeely will join the Workshop faculty and participants in a Concert at the historic Hudson Opera House. Students' works-in-progress are presented alongside performances by the faculty.

In previous years, the Hudson Jazz Workshop has attracted students from as far away as Japan, Armenia and Denmark as well as the USA. International interest in the Workshop is attributed to its stellar faculty and co-founders, Armen Donelian and Marc Mommaas.

The music of pianist/composer **Armen Donelian** reflects diverse influences from Classical, Latin and Middle Eastern traditions as well as pivotal work performing in 23 countries with Jazz masters including Sonny Rollins, Chet Baker, Billy Harper, Mongo Santamaria, Paquito D'Rivera, Ivo Papasov and Night Ark. A graduate of Columbia

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University, Armen has received numerous grants and awards, including six Fulbright Awards for work in Armenia, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and Greece and six Jazz Performance Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts to present concerts and master classes in New York City. Armen has recorded 11 critically acclaimed albums featuring 59 compositions for several labels, including a recent trio recording with David Clark and George Schuller, *Oasis*, on Sunnyside Records (2007). A resident of Hudson, Armen returned in July from a two-week stay in Palestine and Israel to teach at the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music and the Israel Conservatory of Music. Armen has taught as an Adjunct Professor at The New School Jazz Program (22 years) and William Paterson State University (17 years), and wrote *Training the Ear Vol. 1 & Vol. 2* (Advance Music) that are in wide use throughout the world. He is currently preparing for the release of his 12th recording, with Marc Mommaas, Mike Moreno, Dean Johnson and Tyshawn Sorey.

Born in 1969 in Holland, **Marc Mommaas** comes from an artistic background. His mother is an opera singer/pianist and his late father a well-known painter. During his study in Amsterdam, Marc combined musical development with a university education (Masters in Communication Science/Business). In 1997, he was awarded two Dutch grants (Stichting Podium Kunsten, Prins Bernard Fonds Anjer Fondsen), after which he moved to New York City where he received a full scholarship to attend the Manhattan School of Music (MSM) to pursue a Masters in Jazz Performance. Upon graduating he was awarded the William H. Borden Award, given to only one student selected from the graduating class for outstanding achievement. Marc made his debut as a leader recording *Global Motion Trio* with Nikolaj Hess and John Hebert (1999). In 2001, Tony Moreno joined the group that now has become Global Motion. After an extensive European tour including a 5-day engagement at the Pompoen in Amsterdam, the band recorded *Global Motion*, released by Sunnyside Records (2003), receiving critical praise in Downbeat, Jazz Times, Jazz Improv, All About Jazz and numerous online platforms. It was followed by *Balance* (2006), a long-awaited duo recording with Nikolaj Hess, and a guitar project called *Landmarc* (2010) with Tony Moreno, Nate Radley, Vic Juris and Rez Abbasi, both on Sunnyside.

Armen and Marc met in 2000 at MSM and immediately established a personal chemistry that is at the heart of

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their music making. Over the last nine years they have been performing their original and standard repertoire resulting in a critically acclaimed duo release on Sunnyside Records, *All Or Nothing At All* ("Their intuitive connection is its own reward." - Downbeat). In 2007, Armen and Marc founded the Hudson Jazz Workshop to teach Jazz improvisational duo performance. In 2010, they established Hudson Jazzworks, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit educational organization, to further support the long-term development of the Workshop.

Special Concert Guest Artist on August 15 will be **Jim McNeely**, on piano, a Grammy-nominated composer, arranger and teacher. Jim has performed with Ted Curson, Chet Baker, David Liebman, Art Farmer and Bobby Watson. McNeely spent six years with the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra and its successor, the Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra (now the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, as Composer in Residence). He was the pianist with the Stan Getz Quartet for four years, and the Phil Woods Quintet for five years. Jim is currently a composer and arranger for the Danish Radio Orchestra, with the title of Permanent Chief Conductor; the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band; the Netherlands' Metropole Orchestra; the West German Radio (WDR) Big Band; and, the Stockholm Jazz Orchestra. McNeely teaches at New York University, the Stanford Jazz Workshop and Jamey Aebersold's Summer Jazz Clinics, and is Co-director of the BMI Jazz Composer's Workshop. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Workshop and the Concert.

The Concert of the Hudson Jazz Workshop featuring Armen Donelian, Marc Mommaas, Jim McNeely and the Workshop participants will take place on Sunday, August 15 at 3pm at The Hudson Opera House, 327 Warren Street, Hudson, NY. More information is available by calling (518) 822-1438 or visiting www.hudsonoperahouse.org.

The 4th Annual Hudson Jazz Workshop is presented by Hudson Jazzworks, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, located at 338 Kipp Road, Hudson, NY. More information is available by visiting www.hudsonjazzworks.org.

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