Annual Jazz Workshop returns to Hudson

HUDSON—The sixth annual Hudson Jazz Workshop happens Thursday through Sunday, August 9 through 12. The workshop, presented by Hudson Jazzworks, Inc., is a weekend immersion in jazz improvisation and composition with two composers, recording artists and teachers of duo playing, pianist Armen Donelian of Hudson and saxophonist Marc Mommaas, a Dutch native and longtime New York City resident.

Sunday, August 12, vibraphonist Joe Locke joins Donelian, Mommaas and HJW participants in a morning Jazz Master Class at the HJW Studio. Musicians and students are especially invited. Later that afternoon at the Hudson Opera House, Locke, Donelian and Mommaas give an Artists' Talk followed by a jazz concert with HJW participants playing works in progress created during the workshop. The Master Class and concert are open to the public.

Since 1975, Donelian (armen jazz.com) has produced 12 albums featuring 74 compositions that reflect influences drawn from classical, jazz and Middle Eastern music. He has toured in 23 countries with jazz legends including Sonny Rollins and Chet Baker. A professor for 24 years at The New School Jazz Program and for 19 years at William Paterson University, Donelian is the author of books on jazz ear training and piano. Donelian's latest CD is a quintet outing titled "Leapfrog."

Photos contributed

Musicians (l to r) Joe Locke, Armen Donelian and Marc Mommaas are performing Sunday at the Hudson Opera House during the Hudson Jazz Workshop.

Mommaas tours internationally with his ensemble, Global Motion, and as a sideman can be heard with the quintet and duo of Donelian and other groups. Mommaas has presented master classes in numerous conservatories and is co-director of the New York Jazz Workshop.

Donelian and Mommaas met in 2000 and immediately established a chemistry that is at the heart of their music making. For 11 years, they have performed their original compositions and standard repertoire documented on their Sunnyside CD "All Or Nothing At All."

Locke has been voted the #1 vibist in DownBeat Magazine's Critics Poll and Brazil's International Jazz Poll. He has recorded more than 25 CDs as a band leader and appears on almost 100 recordings as producer and a sideman.

August 9-12 workshops take place at the HJW studio, 338 Kipp Road. Call 518 822-1640 or visit hudsonjazzworks.org.

The August 12 jazz master class is at 10:30 a.m. at 338 Kipp Road. Admission is free to students under 21, $10 for adults and $8 for Hudson Opera House members. Seating is limited, advance reservation required, at 518 822-1640.

The August 12 program at the Hudson Opera House, 327 Warren Street, begins at 3 p.m. with the Artists' Talk. The concert starts immediately afterward; admission is free to students under 21, $10 for adults and $8 for HOH members. Call 518 822-1438 to reserve or visit hudsonoperahouse.org for more concert information.

These events are made possible in part with funds from the 2012 Decentralization Pro-gram of the New York State Council on the Arts, administered through the Community Arts Grants Fund by the Columbia County Council on the Arts. HJW is also grateful for corporate support from The Bank of Greene County Charitable Foundation and individual donors.

MAKING MUSIC

August 9-12
HUDSON JAZZ WORKSHOP, 338 Kipp Rd, with Armen Donelian & Marc Mommaas. Immersion in jazz improvisation and composition. Info 518 822-1640 or hudsonjazzworks.org.

August 12
HUDSON JAZZ WORKSHOP Master Class with Armen Donelian, Marc Mommaas, Joe Locke, HJW Studio, 338 Kipp Rd, Hudson, 10:30 am, $10, students free. Seating limited, reservations required, 518 822-1640.

ARMEN DONELIAN, Marc Mommaas, Joe Locke, Hudson Opera House, 327 Warren St, 3 pm, $10, students free. Artists' Talk and jazz concert. Reservations, 518 822-1438. hudsonoperahouse.org.