

Jazz group teaches, plays next week

HUDSON—The third annual Hudson Jazz Workshop and concert take place next week, Thursday, August 13 through Sunday August 16, 2009, with Armen Donelian and Marc Mommaas, faculty; and guest artist David Liebman (August 16 only.)

A jazz concert concludes the workshop Sunday, August 16 at the Hudson Opera House, 327 Warren Street. The 3 p.m. performance will feature Msrs. Liebman, Donelian and Mommaas and workshop participants.

The intimate workshop is a weekend immersion in jazz improvisation and composition in a relaxed yet focused atmosphere conducive to intense study with two of today's leading practitioners and teachers of jazz duo playing, according to a release.

The Hudson Jazz Workshop is an international and intergenerational learning opportunity for aspiring musicians playing piano, reeds, brass and stringed instruments as well as voice. Daily individual and group instruction covers the art of jazz improvisation, duo playing, technique, composition, harmony, accompaniment, rhythm and repertoire. Performance practicum sessions are held each evening. Students' works-in-progress are presented in the concluding faculty/student concert on Sunday afternoon at Hudson Opera House.

Last year's workshop attracted students from as far away as Japan, Armenia and Denmark as well as the U.S.

Pianist/composer Donelian, a resident of Hudson, is a Fulbright Scholar for work in Armenia, Finland, Sweden,

Switzerland and Greece, a 6-time NEA Fellow, recording artist, adjunct professor at The New School Jazz Program for over 20 years, and author of 2 widely used books, *Training the Ear Vol. 1 & 2* (Advance Music). A graduate of Columbia University and the Westchester Conservatory of Music, Mr. Donelian has taught at schools and performed in 23 countries at major festivals, concert halls and clubs, and produced 11 albums.

A cum laude graduate from Manhattan School of Music (MSM) and recipient of the William Borden Award, saxophonist/composer Marc Mommaas, a native of Holland, is a strong presence in the NYC Jazz scene where he has lived for over 10 years. He tours internationally with his celebrated ensemble, Global Motion,



Photo contributed
Jazz pianist Armen Donelian is one of three renowned performers teaching a jazz workshop next week. It will culminate in a concert Sunday, August 16, at Hudson Opera House.

Sunday August 16, 2009, 3pm
Concert of the Hudson Jazz Workshop
In our 3rd year!
ARMEN DONELIAN, MARC MOMMAAS
w/DAVID LIEBMAN (special guest)
& Students
Hudson Opera House
 327 Warren Street, Hudson, NY
 Concert Info: (518) 822-1438
www.hudsonoperahouse.org
 Workshop Info: (518) 822-1640
www.armenjazz.com

and has presented master classes in renowned conservatories including MSM and New York University (NY), the Rhythmic Music Conservatory (Denmark) and Conservatory of Amsterdam (Holland).

Special concert guest David Liebman, on soprano saxophone, is a renaissance man in contemporary music. He has

played with Miles Davis, Elvin Jones, Chick Corea and others; authored books and instructional videos acknowledged as classics in the field of jazz; recorded as a leader in styles ranging from classical to rock to free jazz; founded the International Association of Schools of Jazz; is a 1998 Grammy nominee for Best Jazz Solo; was inducted into the International Association of Jazz Educator's Hall of Fame in 2000; has received an honorary doctorate from the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland; and, has been performing worldwide for over 30 years. He has consistently placed highly for soprano saxophone in the Downbeat Critics Poll.

The Hudson Jazz Workshop is presented by Jazz in the Hudson Valley, at 338 Kipp Road. More information is available by calling (518) 822-1640, or visiting www.armenjazz.com and www.mommaas.com.

Jazz workshop ends with concert

JAZZ in the Hudson Valley presents the second annual Summer Jazz Duo Workshop in Hudson, a weekend immersion in jazz improvisation and composition, Thursday, August 14 through Sunday, August 17.

The weekend ends with a faculty/student concert Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m.

The workshop, led by pianist Armen Donelian and saxophonist Marc Mommaas, accepts partici-

pants of all ages who play piano, reeds, brass and stringed instruments; as well as vocalists. Individual and group instruction covers duo playing, improvisation, composition, technique, harmony, accompaniment, rhythm and repertoire; and jam sessions are held every evening.

Last year's workshop attracted students from as far away as Denmark and as nearby as Kinderhook, and from Manhattan, Brook-

lyn and Connecticut. Enrollment has almost doubled this year.

Workshop leader Armen Donelian, a Hudson resident, is a Fulbright Scholar who has worked in Armenia, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland. He is a 6-time NEA Fellow, an adjunct professor at The New School jazz program, and the author of two widely used books, *Training the Ear Vol. 1 & 2* (Advance Music, 1992, 2004).

Donelian, a graduate of Columbia University and the Westchester Conservatory of Music, has taught and performed in 23 countries and recorded 11 albums. His musical influences range from Classical, Latin and Middle Eastern music to jazz greats such as Sonny Rollins, Chet Baker, Billy Harper and Mongo Santamaria.

Saxophonist/composer Marc Mommaas, a native of Holland, has lived and performed in New York City for the last 10 years. He is a *cum laude* graduate of the Manhattan School of Music and a recipient of the William Borden Award.

Mommaas tours internationally with Global Motion, his jazz ensemble, and he has presented master classes in conservatories on both sides of the Atlantic. He and Donelian have been performing together since 2007; Sunnyside Records release their duo CD, *All or Nothing at All*, in 2006.

The concluding workshop concert, which is free and open to the public, will be presented at 338 Kipp Road in Hudson. For more information, call (518) 822-1630 or go to www.armenjazz.com or www.mommaas.com.