

IN THE NEWS

Educator, performer to be featured at HCC Jazz Festival

The 21st annual Holyoke Community College Jazz Festival opens Friday, March 9, with a concert featuring renowned musician and composer Jeff Holmes as the festival's guest artist, playing drums, piano and trumpet with the Amherst Jazz Orchestra under the direction of David Sporny.

Holmes' wife, jazz vocalist Dawning Holmes, will join performers on stage for the Friday night concert.

The two-day festival of musical workshops and performances begins at 8 p.m. in the Leslie Phillips Theater in the HCC Fine and Performing Arts building, on the campus at 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke. Tickets are \$15 for the general public, \$10 for seniors and non-HCC students, and free for HCC students, staff and faculty with a valid ID.

Holmes is a noted composer, arranger, performer, and a professor of music and director of jazz and African-American music studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He and his wife live in Sunderland.

The festival continues on Saturday, March 10, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Leslie Phillips Theater with big band and jazz combo performances by high school and HCC jazz students. Jazz clinics, workshops and jam sessions will be held throughout the day in the HCC Recital



Submitted photo

Renowned musician and composer Jeff Holmes will be the guest artist at the annual Holyoke Community College Jazz Festival, which opens March 9.

Hall, FPA Building, Room 137.

Holmes will conduct two music clinics, one at 11 a.m. and another at 1 p.m.

A concluding concert will be held in the theater Saturday from 4 to 5 p.m. This will feature Holmes performing

with a select combo of students representing each of the participating high schools, HCC students and festival faculty.

All Saturday events are free and open to the public. Individuals who

wish to participate in workshops will be charged a nominal registration fee.

Also on Saturday, Gerry's Music in South Hadley will have a display booth showcasing instruments, music and accessories.

For information, contact Robert Ferrier at 413-552-2480 or rferrier@hcc.edu.

Holmes holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the Eastman School of Music, and is a multiple recipient of jazz composition grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has written music for John Abercrombie, the Big Apple Circus, Ernie Watts, Max Roach, Yusef Lateef, Doc Severinsen, the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, as well as numerous works for military, college, high and junior high school jazz, concert and marching ensembles.

Featured on the Jazz at Kennedy Center Series with the Billy Taylor Trio, Holmes subs regularly with the Paul Winter Consort, is a member of the 11-piece classical ensemble Solid Brass, is lead trumpeter for the New England Jazz Ensemble, leader of the Jeff Holmes Big Band, and drummer with the Amherst Jazz Orchestra.

Holmes performed at the HCC Jazz Festival in 2014 with the Jeff Holmes Quartet, that year's guest artists.