

Plus 2/28/18

Jazz festival to offer concerts, workshops

The 21st annual Holyoke Community College Jazz Festival opens on 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's wife, jazz vocalist Dawning Holmes, will join performers on stage for the concert.

The two-day festival of musical workshops and performances begins at 8 p.m. in the Leslie Phillips Theater in the HCC Fine & Performing Arts building.

Tickets are \$15 (general public), \$10 (senior and non-HCC students) and free for members of the HCC community (students, staff and faculty) with a valid ID.

Holmes is a noted composer, arranger, performer, and a professor of music and director of Jazz & African American Music Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He and his wife live in Sunderland.

The festival continues on 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



Jeff Holmes plays piano at the 2014 HCC Jazz Festival. The 21st annual Holyoke Community College Jazz Festival, March 9 and 10, will feature Holmes as the festival guest artist.

students. Jazz clinics, workshops and jam sessions will be held throughout the day in the HCC Recital 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 has 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 and the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, as well as numerous works for military, college, high school/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, and drummer with the Amherst Jazz Orchestra, as well as leader of the Jeff Holmes Big Band.

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