2020–21 Season
93rd Concert

Wednesday 27 January 2021
Dalton Center Recital Hall
1:00 p.m.

WESTERN JAZZ COLLECTIVE
Greg Jasperse, Voice
Scott Cowan, Trumpet
Andrew Rathbun, Saxophone
Matthew Fries, Piano
Matt Landon, Guitar
John Hébert, Bass
Keith Hall, Drum Set

with special guest
KEVIN JONES, Percussion

Program to be selected from the following:

Onaje Allen Gumbs
Up for The Count

Kevin Jones
Bodhisattva Wonderful Sound

Andrew Rathbun
The 5th Risk

Andrew Rathbun
Reading the Exits

Andrew Rathbun
Different Directions

Andrew Rathbun
Making No Sense

Babatunde Lea
Descarga Para Ginny

Building emergencies will be indicated by flashing lights and spoken announcement within the seating area. If the notification is for fire, please exit the building immediately. The tornado safe area in Dalton Center is along the lockers in the brick hallway to your left as you exit to the lobby behind you. In any emergency, walk—do not run—to the nearest exit. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance. Because of legal issues, any video or audio recording of this performance is forbidden without prior consent from the School of Music. Thank you for your cooperation.
The **Western Jazz Collective** consists of seven dedicated educators who are also world-class performers with an astounding list of combined recording and touring credits as leaders and sidemen. Together, they make up the faculty of the Western Michigan University School of Music jazz area. The Collective is delighted to collaborate with special guest percussionist and visiting artist Kevin Jones.

**Kevin Jones** is a percussionist, band leader, producer, and educator. A native of Englewood, New Jersey, he grew up in a household immersed in jazz, soul, gospel and blues, from Charlie Parker and Lou Rawls to Nat King Cole and Mahalia Jackson, along with the pop and R&B legends of the times. Reportedly, Jones' grandmother, Maggie Walker Jones, once played with (and maybe even recorded with) Bessie Smith. The arts of all types were nurtured in the Jones household and piano lessons were a requirement, not an elective.

Jones traces his percussion expertise to the age-old “academy of the streets”. Over the years he has evolved an increasingly comprehensive approach to percussion, commanding respect from artists such as the Isley Brothers, Whitney Houston, Winard Harper, and Reggie Workman.

At age 10 he began showing interest in playing hand drums inspired and mentored by master drummers Marvin “Bugalu” Smith (Sun-Ra, Archie Shepp, Mal Waldron), Earl “Buster” Smith (Eric Dolphy, un-Ra), Karl Potter (The Isley Brothers, Pino Daniele) and Babatunde Lea (Pharoah Sanders, Leon Thomas).

At 18 Jones recorded an album with alto saxophonist Charles McPherson titled Free Bop. Soon to follow was his tenure in Archie Shepp’s Attica Blues Big Band in 1979 when he recorded a double album. Just a couple of months later Jones was asked to join iconic and legendary soul and R&B group, The Isley Brothers; a relationship that lasted for 13 years with multiple tours and 9 different recording projects. In between that time he was able to join forces with Whitney Houston for 4 glorious years touring and making many television appearances.

Jones continued to study his craft and learn from whoever he could while working in all sorts of settings. From Reggie Workman and Winard Harper to Randy Weston and Luisito Quintero, he stretched the boundaries of his craft.

During his career he has had the opportunity to share the stage or recorded alongside of Hilton Ruiz, Walter Bishop Jr., Harold Vick, Grady Tate, Frank Wess, Jamil Nasser, Ray Copeland, Joey DeFrancesco, Teodross Avery, Ameen Saleem, Pat Martino, Jim Rotundi, Eric Alexander, Vince Ector, Papa John DeFrancesco, Melvin Sparks, Art Blakey Jr., John Benitez, Bebe and Cece Winans, Jermaine Jackson, Angela Winbush, Norman Simmons, Luisito Quintero, Billy Hart, Frank Lacy, Luis Perdomo, Alex Blake, Randy Weston, Winard Harper, Jimmy Owens, Billy Harper, Reggie Workman, Steve Turre, Michael Dease and Bob DeVos.

In 1999 Jones started to focus on teaching as a passion by working with The Bronx Arts Ensemble to Arts Horizons and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Rhythm Road Jazz Ambassador’s project. In the same year he recorded his first solo project with producer and pianist Kelvin Sholar, Marvin Smith, Chuck McPherson and saxophonist TK Blue called Land of Eternal Tranquil Light. It was an eclectic mix of music. He and Sholar then put together a collaborative band called Tenth World to play some local gigs. The sound turned out to be innovative and expressive, blending elements of Jazz, R&B and World Music to create a unique sound that had to be recorded. They swiftly produced their self-titled album, Tenth World. The group Tenth World included saxophonist Brian Horton, trumpeter Kevin Louis, drummer Jaimeo Brown, bassists Damon Warmack and Josh David Barrett. On occasion they were joined by flautist George Makinto and percussionist Luisito Quintero. The core of the group remained the same for years. They toured all over the world and Jones was signed to a contract with Motema Music. They produced another Live CD called Tenth World – Live.

Kevin Jones continues to teach children in under-served communities; a passion which he relentlessly pursues.