

AMHERST COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
PRESENTS

Imani Winds

Brandon Patrick George, flute
Karen Birch Blundell, oboe
Mark Dover, clarinet
Kevin Newton, French horn
Monica Ellis, bassoon

with

Cory Smythe, piano

*Imani Winds is represented by
Arts Management Group, Inc., 130 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019*

Saturday, October 22, 2022 • Buckley Recital Hall • 8 PM

MUSIC AT **AMHERST** SERIES

PROGRAM

“Revolutionary aka The Civil Rights Project”

Reflecting the struggles we face, the times we live in, and the hope we must have.

Program notes will be announced from the stage

A Change Is Gonna Come

Sam Cooke
arr. John Clark

Sometimes

Frederic Rzewski

Commissioned by Duke Performances at Duke University in celebration of the centennial of John Hope Franklin. Premiered October 29, 2015.

Bruits

Vijay Iyer

Cory Smythe, piano

—Intermission—

Cane

Jason Moran

- i. Togo to Natchitoches
- ii. Coin Coin's Narrative
- iii. Gens libre de couleur
- iv. Natchitoches to New York

*Commissioned by the Mary Flager Cary Charitable Trust and the Kimmel Center.
Premiered at the Kimmel Center, Philadelphia, PA, October 2008.*

Bronzeville

Valerie Coleman

Cory Smythe, piano

*Commissioned by Imani Winds and UChicago Presents at University of Chicago.
Premiered at the Logan Center for the Arts, Chicago, IL, May 3, 2017*

Please silence your mobile phone, pager, watch, or any other electronic noise-makers during the concert. Please refrain from using electronic devices with light-producing screens, as they are distracting to your fellow audience members.

Cameras and recording devices are strictly prohibited.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Celebrating over two decades of music making, the twice Grammy nominated **Imani Winds** has led both a revolution and evolution of the wind quintet through their dynamic playing, adventurous programming, imaginative collaborations and outreach endeavors that have inspired audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

The ensemble's playlist embraces traditional chamber music repertoire, and as a 21st century group, Imani Winds is devoutly committed to expanding the wind quintet repertoire by commissioning music from new voices that reflect historical events and the times in which we currently live.

Present and future season performances include a Jessie Montgomery composition inspired by her great-grandfather's migration from the American south to the north, as well as socially conscious music by Andy Akiho, designed to be performed both on the concert stage and in front of immigrant detention centers throughout the country.

Imani Winds regularly performs in prominent international concert venues, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Walt Disney Hall and the Kimmel Center. Their touring schedule has taken them throughout the Asian continent, Brazil, Australia, England, New Zealand and across Europe. Their national and international presence include performances at chamber music series in Boston, New York, Washington D.C., San Francisco, Philadelphia and Houston. Festival performances include Chamber Music Northwest, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, the Ravinia Festival, Chautauqua, Banff Centre and Angel Fire.

Imani Winds' travels through the jazz world are highlighted by their association with saxophonist and composer Wayne Shorter, woodwind artist and composer Paquito D'Rivera and pianist and composer Jason Moran. Their ambitious project, "Josephine Baker: A Life of Le Jazz Hot!" featured chanteuse René Marie in performances that brought the house down in New York, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Los Angeles and St. Louis.

Imani Winds' commitment to education runs deep. In 2021 Imani Winds joined the Faculty at the Curtis Institute of Music, where they serve as the school's first ever Faculty Wind Quintet. Imani Winds has also served as Resident Artists at Mannes School of Music, and as Ensemble-in-Residence at University of Chicago. The group participates in other residencies throughout the U.S., giving performances and master classes to thousands of students each year. Academic and institutional residencies include the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Duke University, the University of Michigan, The University of Texas at Austin, Da Camera of Houston and numerous others across the country. The ensemble launched its annual Imani Winds Chamber Music Festival in 2010, bringing together young instrumentalists and composers from across North America and abroad for exploration and performance of the standard repertoire and newly composed chamber music. Festival participants also take part in workshops devoted to entrepreneurial and outreach opportunities, with the goal of creating the complete musician and global citizen.

In 2021, Imani Winds released their latest album, “Bruits” on Bright Shiny Things Records, which received a 2022 Grammy nomination for “Best Chamber Music/ Small Ensemble Performance.” *Gramophone* states, “the ensemble’s hot rapport churns with conviction throughout.”

Imani Winds has six albums on Koch International Classics and E1 Music, including their 2006 Grammy Award nominated recording, *The Classical Underground*. They have also recorded for Naxos and Blue Note and released Stravinsky’s “Rite of Spring” on Warner Classics. Imani Winds is regularly heard on all media platforms including NPR, American Public Media, the BBC, SiriusXM, the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

In 2016, Imani Winds received their greatest accolade in their 20 years of music making: a permanent presence in the classical music section of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC.

Pianist Cory Smythe has worked closely with pioneering artists in new, improvisatory, and classical music, including saxophonist-composer Ingrid Laubrock, violinist Hilary Hahn, and multidisciplinary composers from Anthony Braxton to Zosha Di Castri. His own music “dissolves the lines between composition and improvisation with rigor” (*Chicago Reader*), and his first record was praised by Jason Moran as “hands down one of the best solo recordings I’ve ever heard.” Smythe has been featured at the Newport Jazz, Wien Modern, Trondheim Chamber Music, Nordic Music Days, Approximation, Concorso Busoni, and Darmstadt festivals, as well as at Lincoln Center’s Mostly Mozart festival, where he was recently invited to premiere new work created in collaboration with Peter Evans and Craig Taborn. He has received commissions from Milwaukee’s Present Music, the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Trondheim Jazz Orchestra, the International Contemporary Ensemble, of which he is a longtime member, and the Shifting Foundation. Smythe received a Grammy award for his work with Ms. Hahn and plays regularly in the critically acclaimed Tyshawn Sorey Trio.

Amherst College Music Department Upcoming Events

10/27 Jazz@Friedmann Room Keefe Campus Center 9 PM

10/28 ACJE Homecoming Concert Keefe Campus Center 8:30 PM

10/29 Choral Society: Homecoming Concert with the Williams College Concert Choir. Buckley Recital Hall. 12 PM

ASO Homecoming Concert: John Williams Tribute
Buckley Recital Hall. 8 PM

11/5 Family Weekend All-Play Concert: Celebrating Voting Rights
With the AC Jazz Ensemble, Choral Society and the ASO.
Buckley Recital Hall. 8 PM Registration required.
Please see: amherst.edu/music

All events are free and held in Buckley Recital Hall unless otherwise noted
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