



For Immediate Release

Music (Jazz)

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[high res digital images upon request; access to sound bytes available at

www.jcmc.neu.edu, www.myspace.com/johncoltranememorialconcert &

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COLTRANE'S ASHÉ III



[Bill Pierce, Stan Strickland, Leonard Brown; photo by Craig Bailey]

THE 34TH ANNUAL JOHN COLTRANE MEMORIAL CONCERT

October 22, 2011

*"Fall in New England means it's time for the
John Coltrane Memorial Concert,
an annual event that features
some of the world-class musicians that call Boston home.
It makes for an exciting night of music,
a New England cultural event not to be missed."
(Eric Jackson, WGBH)*

(Boston, MA 02115) **Coltrane's Ashé III: 34th Annual John Coltrane Memorial Concert.** Honoring **José Massó** ("Con Salsa" on WBUR) and hosted by **Eric Jackson** (on WGBH). Saturday, October 22, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$25 general admission (plus \$2 order fee per ticket); discounts available to groups, NU faculty & staff, WGBH Members, NU & non-NU students, and seniors. Northeastern University, Blackman Theatre, Ell Hall, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston. Wheelchair accessible. For tickets, visit or call for information: 617-373-4700 (TTY 617-373-2184); hours Mon.-Fri., noon–6pm (extended to 8 pm on Wed.), and one hour before the performance; or log onto <http://tickets.neu.edu>.

For this year's 34th anniversary, the **John Coltrane Memorial Concert (JCMC)** revisits **Ashé** (pronounced Ah-shay), Yoruban for the all-pervasive energy with which the Creator empowers humanity. JCMC explored **Trane's** connection to **Ashé** in their 1993 concert, which resulted in a special edition double CD recording issued in time for their second **Ashé** concert in 1998. Throughout the Caribbean, **Ashé**, or life force, speaks to divine presence, blessing, energy — or more succinctly, it speaks to Amen.

Coltrane's Ashé III will feature 21st century Afro-Caribbean stylistic approaches to Coltrane's compositions. This influence is illustrated by Trane's incorporation of "Ogunde", an adaptation of an Afro-Brazilian folk song ("Ogunde Varere" or "Prayer of the Gods"), Mongo Santamaria's "Afro-Blue", and the 1965 rendition of Juno Lewis' "Kulu Se Mama" into his repertoire, as well as his own Afro-Caribbean influenced compositions such as "Brazilia", "Dahomey Dance," and "Africa". As in the Yoruba tradition, which stems from ancient times and to this day continues to have a dominant influence and impact in African-centric religions, JCMC's **Coltrane's Ashé III** serves as a greeting and an affirmation of spiritual growth — the life force that catapults us out of our seats to dance.

In JCMC tradition, WGBH's **Eric Jackson** presides over this year's concert which honors **José Massó**, who is celebrating his 36th year as host of WBUR's "*iCon Salsa!*," Boston's best radio source for Afro-Latin music. Massó is being recognized for his groundbreaking leadership in the fields of education, communications, politics, entertainment, and sports.

Coltrane's Ashé III will feature the **John Coltrane Memorial Ensemble**, an outstanding lineup of 14 prominent Boston-based musicians, many of whom have been the core of the John Coltrane Memorial Concert over its 34 year legacy: **Carl Atkins, Leonard Brown, Jeff Galindo, Tim Ingles, John Lockwood, Ricardo Monzon, David Neves, Jason Palmer, Bill Pierce, Ron Savage, Syd Smart, Joel Larue Smith, Stan Strickland, and Gary Valente.**

John Coltrane inspired many, no matter the community or culture, to achieve musical, spiritual, and humanitarian heights never thought possible. The Boston based **John Coltrane Memorial Concert (JCMC)**, established in 1977, is an annual recognition of Coltrane's spiritual and musical legacy. The world's oldest annual performance tribute to Coltrane and now in its 34th year of existence, JCMC is currently based in the Department of African American Studies at Northeastern University. www.northeastern.edu/daas/

Further background information on the annual John Coltrane Memorial Concert (JCMC):

The first **John Coltrane Memorial Concert (JCMC)** was performed in Boston on July 17, 1977, in the **Friends of Great Black Music Loft**, a performance space for creative arts established by master percussionist **Syd**

Smart. The annual concert then developed through the collective efforts of Smart, bassist **Hayes Burnet**, and saxophonist **Leonard Brown**. In 1986, the JCMC moved to Northeastern University, which has served as its home for a quarter of a century, providing a stability that has been essential to the continuation and growth of this unique and important cultural event. Currently, JCMC is led by the team of Leonard Brown (Associate Professor of African American Studies & Music) and **Emmett G. Price III** (Chair, Department of African-American Studies and Associate Professor of African American Studies & Music).

From the beginning and now into its 34th year of producing concerts, the JCMC's purpose has been to reflect on the rich musical and spiritual legacy of 'Trane through contemporary interpretations of his works, to inspire us all to work toward developing our full capacities as human beings, and to work for world peace. The long list of invited guest artists who have performed with JCMC include McCoy Tyner, Frank Foster, Shirley Scott, George Coleman, Mulgrew Miller, Alvin Batiste, Bill Barron, Gary Bartz, Yusef Lateef, Brother Blue, Danilo Perez, Michael Harper, Pharoah Sanders, Alan Dawson, Terri Lyn Carrington, Ravi Coltrane, Guru's Jazzmatazz, and Anthony Brown's Asian American Orchestra. The JCMC is the world's oldest annual performance tribute to the musical and spiritual legacy of John Coltrane and draws a very diverse audience from throughout New England. Since its inception, over 25,000 people have attended the JCMC.

The John Coltrane Memorial Concert is proud to acknowledge this year's sponsors which at press time are Northeastern University (www.northeastern.edu), MassJazz (www.massjazz.com), and JazzBoston (www.jazzboston.org). For updates on sponsors and other pertinent information, log onto www.jcmc.neu.edu or call 617-373-8700.

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