Williams Jazz Ensemble
Andy Jaffe, director
with special guests
Sean Jones and the Sean Jones Group

The Williams Jazz Ensemble featuring guest artist Sean Jones, trumpet
Program order to be announced from the stage.

*It Don’t Mean a Thing if it Ain’t Got That Swing*, by Duke Ellington (1899-1974)
Featuring Su-Young Kim ’14, Caroline Sinico ’14, and Michelle Rodriguez ’12, vocals

*Flying Home*, by Benny Goodman (1909-1986) and Lionel Hampton (1908-2002)
Featuring Michelle Rodriguez ’12, vocals

*I Got it Bad and That Ain’t Good*, by Duke Ellington
Featuring Michelle Rodriguez ’12, vocals

*Upper Manhattan Medical Group*, by Billy Strayhorn (1915-1967)
Featuring special guest, Sean Jones and Jonathan Dely ’15, trumpet

*Concerto for Cootie*, by Duke Ellington

*In A Mellotone*, by Duke Ellington

*Take the A Train*, by Billy Strayhorn

*Tone Parallel to Harlem*, by Duke Ellington

***Intermission***

The Sean Jones Quintet

Sean Jones - trumpet
Brian Hogans - saxophone
George Burton - piano
Luques Curtis - bass
Justin Faulkner - drums

Program and program order to be announced from the stage.

Friday, April 27, 2012
8:00 p.m.
Chapin Hall
Williamstown, Massachusetts

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2010 was certainly a year of change for the trumpeter. In the spring he stepped down from his position as Lead Trumpeter of Wynton Marsalis’ Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, a position that Jones held for over half a decade. Additionally, he formed a new relationship with Marcus Miller, joining the bassist this past summer for a European tour.

Now, in 2011, the title of Jones’ sixth CD, No Need For Words, sums up his overall approach. This is music that cuts straight to the emotional heart, whether dealing with passion, sensuality, parental nurturing, or spiritual forgiveness. Regardless of the particular feeling involved, Jones and his band communicate directly and movingly.

“It’s definitely an emotional statement,” Jones says. “I tried to make sure that the melodies I created and the vibe that I put on each particular tune really carried the message rather than having it expressed verbatim.”

The title track itself, however, refers specifically to one aspect of love in which the verbal becomes unnecessary: the physical, carnal side, represented by some of Jones’ most sensual playing, his horn virtually reaching out of the speakers to lower the blinds and light the candles in the room where you listen.

“Look and See”, on the other hand, opens the album with a bright, engaging fanfare played by Jones and his longtime frontline partner, alto saxophonist Brian Hogans. The tune represents a far less intimate, more universal brand of love, something that Jones found missing from the repertoire as he prepared the album.

No matter what angle they take on the subject, Jones and company’s blazing interactions reveals what any jazz fan knows is the greatest love of all: that between an artist and his music. As Jones says, “I like to play from the heart and not the head.”