



Steve Davis '89 in Hartford's Bushnell Park.

In the Cool of the Night

Hartford and The Hartt School had a reason to be proud on an evening last July when two local jazz musicians opened the 16th Annual Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz in Bushnell Park.

Steve Davis '89 came to Hartford 22 years ago to study jazz with Jackie McLean and adopted Hartford as his home. He is now a well-known trombonist, composer, band leader, and teacher at the Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz at the University of Hartford. At the jazz festival, Davis premiered selections from *The Hartford Suite*, a composition showcasing his love for Hartford and inspired by its people. One piece, "Uncle Moshe," honors Moshe Paranov, a co-founder of The Hartt School. Davis is still developing the material and hopes to record it next year.

Davis and his group closed with "Mission," a piece he wrote in memory of his mentor, Jackie McLean (Hon. '07), who died in 2006, and McLean's wife, Dollie (Hon. '07). It celebrates their artistic and educational contributions to the city over the past 30 years. "Mission" will be available on Davis's forthcoming release, *Smooth*.

The Jimmy Greene Quartet, led by Jimmy Greene '89, joined Davis on the opening night of the festival. Greene, a globe-trotting saxophonist, is a Hartford native and teaches alongside Davis at the Jackie McLean Institute at The Hartt School. ■

Orchestrating Outreach

MAKING THE PERFORMING ARTS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO A DIVERSE COMMUNITY



Mark George, a pianist, educator, and administrator, has been selected as the new director of The Hartt School's Community Division. George comes to the University from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he held the post of director of distance learning. In that position he was a national leader in adapting interactive videoconference technologies for music performance and teaching, and developed a number of innovative arts outreach programs.

"I am so pleased to come to a community that cares deeply about its young people," George said. "The Hartt School Community Division has a well-developed national reputation. I am honored to lead the school into a new era."

George has also held faculty positions at Case Western Reserve University, Mount Union College, and the Baldwin-Wallace College of Conservatory Music. He has a Master of Music from Indiana University and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Cleveland Institute of Music. ■

'Gimme Five'

A volunteer congratulates a contestant as he finishes his competition at the Connecticut Special Olympics Eastern Regional Games in May. For the third year in a row, the University hosted some 1,200 athletes along with coaches, family, friends, and volunteers. Various events were held at the University, Weaver High School, and the Watkinson School. University staff members volunteered in the organizing of the event and, along with students, helped out the day of the games. ■

