
PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 6, 2002

WHAT:
Blast II: Shockwave

WHEN:
Thursday, October 3 at 7:30pm

WHERE:
Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or
go on-line to www.fineartscenter.com/tickets

(EXPLOSIVE MUSICAL BLOWOUT COMING TO THE FAC)

Shockwave ignites a new contemporary genre with cutting edge artistry. Directly from its successful world premiere at the America Gardens Theatre in Walt Disney World's Epcot Center, the concussion of Shockwave is sure to be felt as it continues the legacy of Blast!. The Times of London says, "If you ask me to show you the future of theatre, I would point to Blast!" The Pioneer Valley is about to experience this spectacular production with its performance at the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Thursday, October 3 at 7:30pm.

Shockwave will take you on a musical journey that combines music, movement and color. This theatrical spectacular includes musical selections from Dave Brubeck's "Blue Rondo A La Turk" to The Beach Boys' "Good Vibrations" and from "Prelude, Fugue and Riffs" by Leonard Bernstein to "Macarthur Park." The company totals 52 performers consisting of wind musicians, percussionists, and a visual ensemble. Shockwave will explore everything from electronic percussion to cell phones as they continue to set the standard in this new exciting musical genre. Shockwave's percussion arranger and one of the designers of Blast! is UMass's own Thom Hannum, Associate Director of the UMass Minuteman Marching Band.

The Tampa Tribune heralds Shockwave as, "Upbeat and electrifying." Jim Mason who has been the creative force behind this new art form sums up Shockwave by saying, "Finally the musicians have pushed away the chairs, thrown out the music stands and crawled out of the pit and onto the stage. Once there, they discovered not only freedom of improvisation with their music but also their ability to move and act while playing their instruments. Shockwave is music put into motion that you can not only hear and see but feel as well."

Tickets for blast II: Shockwave are \$45, \$35, & \$15; 17 and under are \$15; Five College students are \$15. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or check

out our website at www.fineartscenter.com. This concert is sponsored in part by Peoples Bank and WRNX 100.9FM. Up-to-date information is available on the blast! web site, which may be found at www.blasttheshow.com.

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