

**Asian Arts & Culture Program at the Fine Arts Center
University of Massachusetts Amherst**

For Immediate Release

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WHAT: Red Baraat

WHEN: Sunday, April 10 at 4:00PM

WHERE: Bowker Auditorium, UMass Amherst

**TICKETS: Fine Arts Center Box Office 545-2511/ 1-800-999-UMAS
 www.umasstix.com**

*“...A Big Band for the World.” -Pia Catton, *The Wall Street Journal**

Dhol (double-sided, barrel-shaped North Indian drum slung over one shoulder), drumset, world percussion, sousaphone and five horns together form New York City's **Red Baraat**, a band that plays fresh originals and Bollywood favorites with an explosive stage performance and presence. The UMass Fine Arts Center Asian Arts & Culture Program brings **Red Baraat** to **Bowker Auditorium** on **Sunday, April 10 at 4:00PM**. Tickets are \$15 for the general public and \$10 for students. Please call the box office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS. Online at: **www.umasstix.com**

Led by dholi Sunny Jain, **Red Baraat** is the first and only “dhol ‘n’ brass” band in North America and melds infectious North Indian Bhangra rhythm with brass funk. Since 2008 the group has delivered blistering performances at many international jazz festivals including: Montreal Jazz Festival, Chicago World Music Festival, Lincoln Center, Madison World Music Festival, Concert of Colors (Detroit), 4th Annual Droma Gypsy Festival, Pori Jazz Festival (Finland), Molde Jazz Festival (Norway), and the Chicago Folks & Roots Festival. Red Baraat has been featured on *Soundcheck*, John Schaefer's live radio broadcast on WNYC-FM 93.9, an NPR affiliate. Not limited to the traditional performance stage,

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Red Baraat recorded the credit roll music for the movie, *The Yes Men Fix the World* and performed for fashion house Ports 1961 at the 2009 Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in NYC. The group's debut CD, *Chaal Baby* (Sinj Records), was released in 2010 and was on the list of multiple music critics as a top world music and jazz CD of 2010.

The band takes its name from the Hindi word “baraat” meaning a marriage procession. In North India it is a tradition on the wedding day for the groom to travel to his bride’s home on a magnificently decorated horse surrounded by an entourage of family and friends. Led by a dholi and/or a marching band, this joyous celebration naturally induces dancing and singing and is inseparable from the energy and excitement of the wedding festivities.

Sunny Jain, band leader of Red Baraat, made his professional debut as a dholi playing in the first Indian Broadway show, *Bombay Dreams* (2004). He has gone on to perform with Masala Bhangra fitness guru, Sarina Jain (“The Indian Jane Fonda”), jazz legend Dewey Redman with Asha Puthli, and Cucu Diamantes of the Latin Funk band, Yerba Buena. Sunny made his Hollywood debut playing dhol in the movie, *Accidental Husband*, starring Uma Thurman, Colin Firth and Isabella Rossellini. He performed a milestone performance with the Pakistani Sufi-rock band, Junoon, at the Nobel Peace Prize Concert in Norway. He was designated a 2002 Jazz Ambassador by US Department of State and The Kennedy Center and subsequently, received the Arts International Award in 2003 and 2005. Sunny was commissioned by Chamber Music America and the Aaron Copland Recording Fund to compose and record new music in 2006 and 2008 respectively.

Percussionist Rohin Khemani from Ottawa, Canada began his musical studies at age six as a classical violinist and continued to perform in recitals and youth orchestras all the way through Canada's Royal Conservatory of Music. After

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that, Rohin broke bows, set his violin on fire and began to play drums to the sounds of Fugazi, 60s Miles, and the Beatles. Rohin has studied with Max Roach, Kenwood Dennard, Manu Katche, John Riley, Yusef Lateef, David Liebman, and Pandit Samir Chatterjee.

Drummer Tomas Fujiwara from Boston, Massachusetts currently leads and composes for his quintet, Tomas Fujiwara & The Hook Up, a quartet called The Thirteenth Assembly and duos with Taylor Ho Bynum. As a sideman, he has performed in ensembles with Bynum, Mary Halvorson, Matana Roberts, Amir ElSaffar, and Matt Mitchell. From 2000-2005, Tomas was a cast member of the Off Broadway hit STOMP for both the touring and New York companies.

Tenor saxophonist, Michael Bomwell, has performed with David Liebman, Clarence Clemons, Sandy Duncan, Charli Persip, Edison Woods, Olivia Newton-John, Ken Peplowski, and the Motor City Horns. Recently, Michael has been performing in New York City with singer/pianist of Broadway's Movin' Out, Henry Haid, and his band Glass Houses, blowin' those classic Billy Joel solos you all know and love. Bomwell was born in Canandaigua, NY.

As a young boy, Sonny Singh's first musical outlet was singing and playing harmonium in Gurdwaras (Sikh houses of worship). At age 9 he began playing the trumpet and has played in a variety of bands including rock, ska/reggae, Indian fusion, funk, and hip hop. Singh co-founded and fronted the popular local ska band, Turban Jones, from 1997-2001 and released two albums of original material. Sonny also co-founded Outernational, the acclaimed genre-bending political rock band in NYC in which he sang, played trumpet, dhol, and harmonium and shared the stage with notable artists such as Tom Morello, Ozomatli, Serj Tankian, Michael Franti and Spearhead, Talvin Singh, DJ Spooky, and performed on the Vans Warped Tour.

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Michael Williams a.k.a. MiWi la Lupa is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music majoring on Trombone and Bass Trumpet. He has performed and recorded with Charlie Hunter, Spoon, Antibalas, Mike Gordon Band, Mocean Worker and appeared on David Letterman with Findlay Brown, Noah and the Whale, Nublu Orchestra, Kenny Wolleson, Michael Leonhart, Donny McCaslin, MMW, and the Brazilian Girls .

Trombonist Dave 'Smoota' Smith currently plays in the Broadway musical *Fela!* with Antibalas and the dirty, gospel, R&B band Reverend Vince Anderson & the Love Choir. He joined Sharon Jones and members of the Dap-Kings in helping Phish cover the Rolling Stones album Exile on Main Street. Smith played trombone and acted in a stage opera version of Melvin Van Peebles' proto-blaxploitation flick *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song* that featured music from Burnt Sugar the Arkestra Chamber. Smith leads the instrumental band The Perfect Man and will soon release *Fetishes*, the debut album of his Serge Gainsbourg meets Shuggie Otis pop act SMOOTA.

As a sousaphone and tuba player, John Altieri has performed solo, chamber, and orchestral music in Japan, Europe, Mexico, Canada, and the U.S., of note, Huis Ten-Bosch Quintet (Nagasaki, Japan), Alarm Will Sound, Tucson Brassworks, Bang On A Can Marathon and Mass Moca, and carries the honor of being the first ever tuba soloist at the Bowdoin Festival in the of summer 2002. Altieri is a composer and conductor with a long list of credits.

If you like your musical masala with a sassy brass section, a saucy sousaphone all mixed with banging bhangra rhythms, **Red Baraat** satisfies in every way!

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Sponsored by Pioneer Valley Hotel Group, The Valley Advocate and WRSI 93.9 The River.

Please see our website at www.fineartscenter.com/asian for additional information. Tickets available online: www.fineartscenter.com or by calling 1-800-999-UMAS or 413-545-2511. Downloadable high resolution photos and electronic versions of press releases for performance events are available at: <http://www.umass.edu/fac/asian/press.html>.

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