

NEWS RELEASE

UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center www.fineartscenter.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 29, 2009

WHAT: Dan Zanes and Friends: Family Dance Party

WHEN: Friday, October 23 at 7:00 PM

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

IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to <http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerseries/pressreleases/photo.html>

GRAMMY-WINNING FAMILY ROCKER DAN ZANES TO PERFORM AT FAC

"Good ol' fashioned pop music for all ages."—Esquire, on Dan Zanes

The UMass Fine Arts Center presents family-music superstar **Dan Zanes and Friends** in a special return engagement **Friday, October 23 at 7 PM in the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall**. A Grammy Award-winner, Zanes is known for incorporating music as culturally diverse as contemporary Spanish salsa and old English maritime tunes, and this concert for all ages will include one of his famous "dance parties" with the audience. Zanes will be accompanied by Colin Brooks, Sonia de los Santos, John Foti, Saskia Sunshine Lane, and Elena Moon Park. There will be a free family party in the lobby before the concert starting at 6 PM featuring light snacks, the staff from FamilyFun Magazine with hands-on craft activities and Baystate Health's Bandy Bear. There will be an ASL interpreter for this concert and special admission for the interpreter viewing section. Please call the box office for details.

This concert is also an **Arts Give Back** event where audience members are asked to bring a new or gently used book to donate to Link to Libraries, a local non-profit that collects and distributes books to elementary school libraries and nonprofit

organizations to enhance the language and literacy skills of children of all cultural backgrounds. Please visit www.linktolibraries.org for a list of preferred books.

Zanes began his career in the '80s with indie rock band The Del Fuegos before turning his focus to music for kids. He has since gained recognition through appearances on the Disney Channel and the international stage, as well as top-selling CDs. His *Catch That Train* won the 2007 Grammy for best musical album for children, and last year's Spanish-language release, *¡Nueva York!* (2008), explores rhythms and melodies inspired by the Latino community around the world. His brand-new CD *The Welcome Table—Songs of Inspiration, Mystery, and Good Times* is a collection of new and old songs inspired by North American gospel traditions. The *New York Times* writes about Zanes's music: "True children's music, but executed with such sweet (and un-gooney!) humor, casual multiculturalism and shambling groove that you can call it your own."

Tickets for the Dan Zanes and Friends are \$35, \$25 and \$15. Youth 17 and under and Five College/GCC students are \$10. Tickets are available at the Fine Arts Center Box Office by phone at 800-999-UMAS or 413-545-2511, or online at www.umasstix.com. The concert is sponsored by Baystate Health, Disney *FamilyFun Mag*, Whole Foods, WRSI 93.9FM The River, and the UMass Alumni Association

For more information about Dan Zanes and Friends visit www.danzanes.com.

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