

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 22, 2010

- WHAT:** Mary Black Performs at UMass
WHEN: Friday, November 12, 8 PM
WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
TICKETS: Call 800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to <http://www.umasstix.com/>
IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/centerwide/pressRoom/>

MARY BLACK PERFORMS AT FINE ARTS CENTER DURING HER FIRST RETURN TO U.S. IN THREE YEARS

"...a versatile vocalist who brings energizing qualities of pop and jazz to her foundation in traditional music." —*Los Angeles Times*

"...one of the best interpretative singers around." —*San Francisco Chronicle*

"...simply spellbinding." —*Boston Globe*

On **Friday, November 12**, revered Irish singer **Mary Black** performs at the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall as part of her return to the States for the first time in three years. "It's been too long since my last tour," says Black. "I've been performing in the U.S. almost every year for 20 years, and the audiences there always impress me with their warmth and enthusiasm...roll on November!"

For over a quarter-century Black has been a dominant presence in Irish music, playing an instrumental role in bringing it to an increasingly appreciative and ever-growing global audience.

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of her first solo album, Black released a career-spanning retrospective double-album, *25 Years/25 Songs*. The album debuted at #1 on the Irish charts, where it remained for five weeks. Featuring personal, handpicked songs, the collection showcases the extraordinary range and quality of her vocal prowess. Spending over seven months on the Irish Top 40 chart, a new generation of Irish fans now regards her as a national treasure.

Hailing from an intensely musical family—her mother a singer and father a fiddle player—Black began her musical career in the late '70s, working with traditional bands General Humbert and De Dannan. In 1983, she released her eponymous debut, which is ranked among the best Irish albums of the early 1980s. Known for her commitment to original material by Irish songwriters and her unique interpretations of the songs, Black has released 15 albums throughout her career, all platinum in Ireland. In 2009, she was featured on Steve Martin's album *The Crow: New Songs for the 5-String Banjo*.

Opening for Mary Black will be Róisín O'Reilly, whose voice has also been a regular feature of Irish radio over the last number of years—whether singing the powerful "Ave Maria" or the delicate and beautiful "The Edge of the Moon" from her album "Love So Kindly."

Tickets for Mary Black are \$35, \$30, and \$15; Five College/GCC/STCC and youth 17 and under are \$10. Tickets are available from the Fine Arts Center box office at 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS, or on the secure Fine Arts Center ticket website at <http://www.umasstix.com/>. This performance is sponsored by *The Daily Hampshire Gazette*, Coca-Cola, and 93.9 FM The River. There will be an Irish Cultural Celebration in the Concert Hall lobby beginning at 7 PM, with demonstrations of Irish dance.

The show is one of the Fine Arts Center's "Arts Give Back" events. Patrons are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to donate to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

For more information about Mary Black, including video clips and song samples, visit her page on the Fine Arts Center [website](#).

PHOTOS

Hi-res photos available for download:

<http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerwide/pressRoom/index.html>

PRESS PASSES

Limited press passes are available. Please contact Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or sfarley@admin.umass.edu

ABOUT THE FAC

The Fine Arts Center, located on the UMass Amherst campus, is a presenter of music, dance, theater and the visual arts, bringing hundreds of outstanding and provocative artists to the Pioneer Valley for over 35 years.

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