

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jorge Luis González at 413-545-4482 or jlq@admin.umass.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 29, 2010

- WHAT:** Mazowsze Performs at UMass
WHEN: Wednesday, November 17, 7:30 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/>

POLISH FOLK DANCE SENSATION MAZOWSZE PERFORMS AT UMASS FINE ARTS CENTER

Polish cultural ambassadors Mazowsze (pronounced ma-zoff-sha) will perform at the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Wednesday, November 17 at 7:30 P.M. The program will be preceded at 6:30 PM by a Polish cultural celebration in the lobby of the Concert Hall. The ensemble of more than 85 dancers, musicians, and singers evoke the musical traditions of more than 39 regions in Poland with breathtaking choreography, musical arrangements and an assortment of handmade costumes.

The repertoire of the group draws inspiration from several important historical areas of Poland, most notably the Mazovian region but also Małopolska, Pomorze, Wielkopolska, the Silesia and Podhale. Unquestionably Polish, they are the roots of the nation and define its identity, continuity and development of its culture. For Polish people living outside Poland, Mazowsze's performances have provided the substitute for the motherland and for thousands of viewers all over the world they were the very first contact with the Polish culture.

There are approx 1000 costumes, which travel with the company and during each show; the performers will change seven to nine times. Each costume change must not take more than a few minutes in order to maintain the timing on stage. Collected over many years, the costumes are made from pure wool, linen,

cotton and silk, hand and custom-made, hand-embroidered, appliquéd, coral beaded and sequin ornamented. Some elements of the costumes are up to a hundred years old. Because of this, a wardrobe staff with very special skills and experience are needed to travel with the company to make sure that the costumes are transported, unpacked, cleaned, repaired and maintained in top condition. Some costumes weigh as much as 30 lbs., making the dancers' energetic gravity-defying leaps, twirls, and lifts even more impressive!

Mazowsze was founded in 1948 by Professor Tadeusz Sygietyński, an eminent composer and a folklore aficionado, who collaborated with his wife, actress Mira Zimińska-Sygietyńska, to preserve Poland's cultural dance traditions.

Mazowsze is a "Global Gourmet" event. A pre-performance dinner at the University Club will be served beginning at 5PM, leaving concert-goers plenty of time to stroll to the Concert Hall lobby for the Polish Cultural Celebration, which begins at 6:30 PM. Reservations for the Global Gourmet meal may be made through the box office.

This performance is sponsored by The Hampshire Hospitality Group, WGBY, and *The Recorder*. The show's community partner is The Polish Center of Discovery & Learning located in Chicopee.

Tickets for Mazowsze are \$30, \$25, 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/>.

For more information about Mazowsze, including a video clip, visit their page on the Fine Arts Center [website](#). You can also visit Mazowsze's own website at <http://www.en.mazowsze.waw.pl/>. Most of the pages are in Polish, but you can reach an English version of the site by clicking on the small British flag at the top left corner of the page.

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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