

NEWS RELEASE

UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center

www.fineartscenter.com

CONTACT: Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or sfarley@admin.umass.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 12, 2008

**WHAT: UMass FINE ARTS CENTER Center Series presents:
Monterey Jazz Festival 50th Anniversary Band**
WHEN: Tuesday, March 4 at 7:30pm, 2008
**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/tickets**

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

(Monterey Jazz Festival on a Historic Nationwide Tour Makes Stop at UMass FAC)

Building on the exciting and unprecedented legacy of fifty years of historic jazz presentation, the Monterey Jazz Festival is on a nationwide, ten-week, fifty-four date tour of the Monterey Jazz Festival 50th Anniversary Band. The UMass Fine Arts Center is proud to be one of the stops for this power-house band on Tuesday, March 4th at 7:30pm in the Concert Hall. Heralded as a meeting of three generations of jazz masters, the MJF 50th Anniversary Band feature the leaders of the past, present and future with Terence Blanchard on trumpet, James Moody on saxophone, musical director Benny Green on piano, Derrick Hodge on bass and Kendrick Scott on drums and vocalist Nnenna Freelon. The concert will feature a selection of standards and favorites from all periods of jazz, including the Tin-Pan Alley, bebop, and modern eras.

At this concert Freelon will receive the Fine Arts Center's Artists of the Year Award for her longstanding history as a student in the Center's Jazz in July program, the first Billy Taylor Jazz Residency artist, and now returning to the Concert Hall stage as part of this historic tour.

Each member of the 50th Anniversary Band has a special relationship with the Monterey Jazz Festival, and has a commitment to the Festival and the cultivation of jazz audiences worldwide. Saxophonist James Moody made his first appearance at MJF in

-MORE-

the early 1960s with Dizzy Gillespie; Benny Green participated in MJF's educational programs as a teenager in the 1970s; Terence Blanchard was MJF's Artist-In-Residence in 2007; Nnenna Freelon has been performing at MJF since the mid 1990s; Kendrick Scott was a three-time member of the Berklee-Monterey Quartet from 1999-2002, and Derrick Hodge has been a member of Terence Blanchard's bands that have performed at Monterey.

"We wanted to create a lasting legacy for our 50th anniversary," says Monterey Jazz Festival General Manager Tim Jackson. "To kick it off, we've assembled some of the masters of jazz who have a close relationship with the Festival to carry the MJF name across America. We've had all-star groups who have performed at Monterey in the past, but they've never gone on a multiple-week tour in the US, so this is an historic occasion for us. All the members represent the spirit and educational enthusiasm of the Monterey Jazz Festival that we'd like to present to the country...plus they're an incredible band, they were mesmerizing at the 50th Annual Monterey Jazz Festival in September 2007. They embody the past, present and future of jazz history."

All-Star Bands at Monterey have been a long-standing tradition at MJF. Starting in 1966, the Festival assembled master musicians under the "Monterey All-Stars" moniker. At least seventeen Monterey All-Star Bands have graced the stages of Monterey and have included Gil Evans, Gerry Mulligan, Elvin Jones, Dizzy Gillespie, Clark Terry, Ray Brown, Sonny Stitt, Max Roach, John Lewis, Shelly Manne, Bobby Hutcherson, Hank Jones, Milt Jackson, and many more as members. All together, the members of the MJF 50th Anniversary Band have performed at Monterey twenty-eight times.

Tickets are \$35, \$25 and \$15, Youth 17 and under are \$12 and Five College Students are \$15, \$10 and \$7. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or go online to www.fineartscenter.com. This performance is sponsored by Fathers & Sons, The Davis Group, WFCR 88.5FM and the Daily Hampshire Gazette.

-END-