THE 2009 SOLOS & DUOS SERIES PRESENTS:

Yusef Lateef/Adam Rudolph Duo

The Solos & Duos Series, produced by the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, continues its 8th season with a duo concert by Yusef Lateef, reeds/flutes and Adam Rudolph, percussion, on Thursday, October 15, in Bowker Auditorium at 8:00pm.

Yusef Lateef and Adam Rudolph began their musical association in 1988. They have 14 albums together and performed in ensembles ranging from duo concerts to work with the Koln, Atlanta and Detroit Symphony Orchestras.

Yusef Lateef, soon to be 89 years old, is a Grammy Award-winning composer, performer, author, educator and philosopher, and a major force on the international musical scene for more than six decades. He is universally acknowledged as one of the great living masters and innovators in the African American tradition. “Yusef Lateef is an artist in the purest form of the word,” says Jazz Weekly.

A virtuoso on a broad spectrum of reed instruments -- tenor saxophone, flute, oboe, bamboo flute, shanai, shofar, argol, sarewa — Yusef Lateef has introduced new sounds to audiences all over the world, and has composed works for ensembles of all sizes. Until his retirement, he was a Five Colleges professor at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA, from which he was awarded a Ph.D. in Education in 1975.

Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1920, Lateef moved to Detroit and came of age with Milt Jackson, Tommy Flanagan, Donald Byrd and Lucky Thompson. At age 18 he began touring professionally with the swing bands of Hot Lips Page, Roy Eldridge, and Lucky Millender, and has toured and recorded with Charles Mingus, Cannonball Adderley, Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie and Babatunde Olatunji. Lateef began recording under his own name in 1956 for Savoy Records, and has since made more than 100 recordings as a leader for the Prestige, Impulse, Atlantic and his own, YAL labels.

Originally from Chicago, bandleader, composer and percussionist Adam Rudolph has appeared at festivals and concerts throughout the world. Since the 1970’s, Rudolph has been developing his unique approach to hand drums in creative collaboration with such masters of improvised music as Sam Rivers, Pharaoh Sanders, L. Shankar, and Fred Anderson. He is known especially for his innovative small group and duo collaborations with Don Cherry, and Wadada Leo Smith. In 1977 he co-founded The Mandingo Griot Society with Foday Musa Suso, and in 1988, recorded the first fusion of American and Gnawa (Moroccan) music with Hassan Hakmoun. Active as a performer and producer in Los Angeles since 1979, Rudolph now lives in New York, where he regularly convenes his Go: Organic Orchestra, and continues to run Meta Records. "Rudolph reinvents world music for sophisticated listeners," writes EAR, “he fuses many world musics into a very artful and keenly constructed whole."

The Solos & Duos Series concludes with a performance by Tyshawn Sorey (Nov. 19). Tickets are $10 and $5 (students), and available through the Fine Arts Center box office, 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS.

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