



PRESS RELEASE

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AUGUSTA SAVAGE GALLERY
University of Massachusetts Amherst
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The Augusta Savage Gallery at the University of Massachusetts Amherst is pleased to announce an evening of performances by **Jose Gonzales and Conjunto de Bomba** on **April 14th, 2005 at 7 pm.**

Conjunto de Bomba is an ensemble of musicians, dancers, and drummers from Amherst Regional High School lead by Nick Shaw. This group will present the energetic sights and sounds of *Bomba*, an Afro-Puerto Rican music and dance form of spontaneous movement, where the lead dancer's movements are followed by a lead drummer. As the lead drummer follows the dancer's lead, the accompanying drummers play polyrhythms, while the rest of the group chants in the traditional African 'call and response' form.

Over the past half-decade, Conjunto de Bomba has brought this dance to Western Massachusetts through seventy performances at public schools, colleges, and cultural centers. All proceeds are directed to helping students attend semiannual trips to Puerto Rico to study with master instructors. Witnessing direct sources of African Heritage, students achieve a greater understanding of culture and art and offer remuneration to those who have defended that heritage for generations.

Guitarist, composer, and virtuoso Cuatro player, **Jose Gonzales** has made a name for himself as one of the worlds foremost Puerto Rican/ Latin musicians. He has performed all along the eastern seaboard and the Caribbean, as well as recording and performing with some of Latin music's major artists. A graduate of the University of Puerto Rico, Gonzales has seven self-produced best selling albums and music that has been featured on television and film productions by NBC, CNN and PBS.

Jose Gonzales and **Conjunto de Bomba** offer a sensational evening of Puerto Rican music and dance! Don't miss it!

This event is free and open to the general public
For information, 413-545-5177