

Contact: Glenn Siegel, (413) 545-2876
www.fineartscenter.com

THE 2006 SOLOS & DUOS SERIES PRESENTS:

Joe Morris/Daniel Levin Duo

The Solos & Duos Series, produced by the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, continues its 5th season with a duo concert by guitarist **Joe Morris** and cellist **Daniel Levin** on **Thursday, October 26**, in **Bezanson Recital Hall** at **8:00 pm**.

Writing in Downbeat, John Corbett calls Joe Morris ". . . the most exciting and original jazz plucker to emerge in the last decade." The 51 year old guitarist has been at the vanguard of improvised music for over two decades. A veteran of the Boston and New York jazz scenes, Morris has recorded with Black Saint, ECM, Hat Hut, Leo, Incus, Okka Disc, AUM Fidelity and OmniTone. His musical associates include Ken Vandermark, Barre Phillips, Eugene Chadborne and Susie Ibarra. The Wire calls Joe Morris "one of the most profound improvisors at work in the U.S." He is currently on the faculty at New England Conservatory in the jazz and improvisation department.

Born in New Haven, Morris first started playing the guitar in 1969, at the age of 14. He immediately took to the instrument and started a long process of self-instruction. By the mid-'70s he had established himself as an improviser, and began his recording career in 1981 with *Wraparound*, on his own Riti Records label. After a two-year stint in New York in the late '80s, he returned to Boston to record *Sweatshop*, a brilliant, steamy free funk trio outing. Other high points from his discography include *Three Men Walking*, with fellow Bostonians Joe and Mat Maneri, *Likewise: Stone House* with Rob Brown and Luther Gray, *Eloping With the Sun*, with William Parker and Hamid Drake, and a solo acoustic record *Singularity*.

"Cellist Daniel Levin is a major new voice on his instrument and in improvised music", writes Ed Hazell in The Boston Phoenix. A young veteran who has already worked with Mark Dresser, Tim Berne, Warren Smith and Billy Bang, Levin's latest release is *Don't Go It Alone* (Riti). "Levin has a sound that ranges from subtle and understated to aggressive," writes John Kelman in All About Jazz, "with admirable technique as a performer and a compositional concept that blends structure with freewheeling exploration, he deserves to have his name added to the short list of cellists who are making a mark in improvisational music."

The Solos & Duos Series concludes with a performance by **Joe McPhee** (Nov. 29). Tickets are \$10 and \$5 (students), and are available through the Fine Arts Center box office, 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS.

The Solos & Duos Series is produced by the UMass Fine Arts Center and made possible by the: Student Affairs Cultural Enrichment Fund and UMass Alumni Association. Thanks to the Campus Center Hotel and WMUA, 91.1FM

