

News Release

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(to obtain an advance copy of the book proof for review)

To download photographs and more information, visit the pressroom at:

www.suchsweetthunder.com

For Immediate Release

Such Sweet Thunder: Views on Black American Music

February 18 – March 14, 2003

Join the festivities surrounding the Fine Arts Center Department of Multicultural Programs new book of photography and firsthand accounts of the music (jazz, blues, and gospel) and performers given tribute at annual Black Musicians Conferences and Festivals held at the University of Massachusetts from 1989 – 1999. Events revolve around the publication of *Such Sweet Thunder: Views on Black American Music* – a unique collection of essays, panel discussion transcripts and photography edited by Mark Baszak, and featuring the photography of Edward Cohen. Cohen's exhibition in Augusta Savage Gallery is the core of the celebration scheduled from February 18 through March 14, 2003.

Such Sweet Thunder (both the book and exhibit) features photographs of Art Blakey, Betty Carter, Doc Cheatham, Dorothy Donegan, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Abdullah Ibrahim, Christian McBride, Bobby McFerrin, Odetta, Max Roach, Richard Smallwood, Dakota Staton, Sarah Vaughan, Marlena Shaw, and Marion Williams among many others who performed at the University of Massachusetts.

Ever wonder what it might be like to share musical ideas and play blues with Eric Clapton, grow up in the same neighborhood as Stevie Wonder and Smokey Robinson, or discuss race matters on the phone with Miles Davis? What about hearing Grammy-winning gospel group Take 6 perform in your own living room before they were famous, collaborating with rapper Black Thought of The Roots, or working with all the bebop greats in 1940s era Manhattan when modern jazz was just being formulated? Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Marvin Winans, Jean Bach, Teodross Avery, and Billy

Taylor are just a few of the artist-authors who tell their stories in *Such Sweet Thunder: Views on Black American Music*.

Events planned in conjunction with the release of the book include a film, lecture, and masterclass presentation featuring Tony-nominated actress Tsidii Le Loka on Thursday and Friday, February 20 and 21, and a film screening of the documentary *In The Shadows of Motown* followed by a Motown and Hip Hop dance party on Wednesday, February 26. (please refer to the attached schedule of events for additional information)

For the latest information regarding all activities surrounding the publication of *Such Sweet Thunder*, or to purchase copies of the book, visit www.suchsweetthunder.com. The book will also be available for sale at Augusta Savage Gallery during exhibit hours, and at every venue of scheduled activities.

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