FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 26th, 2004

WHAT: Dave Holland Big Band

WHEN: Saturday, February 28, 2003, 8pm

WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or
go on-line to www.fineartscenter.com/tickets

2003 Grammy Winner Dave Holland Big Band Coming to FAC

The Dave Holland Big Band, the 2003 Grammy Award Winner for the best large jazz ensemble album, will be making its area debut at the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, Saturday, February 28th at 8pm. Bassist Dave Holland is one the most acclaimed and accomplished legends in contemporary jazz. For their Center Series performance, eight musicians will join his standard quintet of Chris Potter (saxophones), Robin Eubanks (trombone), Steve Nelson (vibraphone and marimba), and Billy Kilson (drums).

Holland has performed with those who occupy the loftiest realms of creativity and acclaim—from his early days in London accompanying masters like Coleman Hawkins and Ben Webster, through his work with Miles Davis’ trailblazing ensembles of the late 1960’s, and his long association with Sam Rivers in the 1970’s.

-more-
All day that same day, the Fine Arts Center and the Jazz and African-American Music Studies Program of the Department of Music and Dance host the Sixth Annual High School Jazz Festival. High school jazz bands from Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut will participate in the daylong festival. Members of the Dave Holland Big Band, along with UMass jazz faculty, will adjudicate student performances. The public is welcome to attend the free student performances throughout the day, and at 7:15pm a high school ensemble selected by the Dave Holland Big Band will perform in the Concert Hall prior to the 8pm performance.

The quintet has made its mark by insisting on being "a group" in an age of all-star projects, and by the time-honored route of going on the road and staying there. Itineraries have taken the ensemble all over North and South America, Europe and Asia, including a tour of China. Despite the individual members' crowded schedules, each of them makes the quintet a priority.

"One of the things that's happening to me as I get older," says Holland, now 53, "is that I'm thinking more and more about using the totality of my experience as a player. Something Sam Rivers said a long time ago has stayed with me: 'Don't leave anything out, use it all.' That's become almost a mantra for me over the years as I've tried to find a way to build a vehicle, which lets me utilize the full spectrum which includes the tradition, which includes playing the blues, which includes improvising freely. I love all that music, and there's been a desire to reconcile all those areas, to make them relevant, hopefully, in a contemporary context, as one music."

The Dave Holland Big Band performs Saturday, February 28th at 8pm in the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall. Tickets are $35, $25, $15; 17 and under $10; Five College Students $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/centerseries. For more information on daylong Jazz Festival, call the Department of Music and Dance at 545-0018. This performance is sponsored in part by the Valley Advocate and WFCR 88.5 FM.

-END-