FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 8, 2003

WHAT  Danilo Pérez and Trio

WHEN  Thursday, October 2 at 7:30 pm

WHERE  Bowker Auditorium
        University of Massachusetts Amherst
        Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or
        go on-line to www.fineartscenter.com/tickets

Ebullient Pan-American Jazz Kick-Starts Center Series 03/04 Season

The extraordinary Panamanian pianist and composer, Danilo Pérez, one of the
most influential musicians of our time, will perform at Bowker Auditorium on Thursday,
October 2 at 7:30 pm. This performance includes Adam Cruz on drums and Ben Street
on bass and is part of the Sixth Annual Billy Taylor jazz Residency.

In just over a decade, Pérez has fine-tuned a distinctive brew of everything from
Latin and Afro-Cuban rhythms to the deep folkloric traditions of Panama, winning
himself both critical acclaim and an extremely loyal audience. Whether leading his own
ensembles or touring with renowned jazz masters (Wayne Shorter, Roy Haynes, Steve
Lacy, Dizzy Gillespie to name a few), Perez never fails to make a decidedly fresh
imprint on contemporary music.

With the release of his most recent recording, Motherland, a work The New
York Times calls “a bold example of the musicological rethinking of jazz,” Pérez has
indeed struck out into new territory. It is this sense of adventure which permeates his
current playing, a sort of seeking exploration, clearly reflected in the passion with
which he plays. As such, the music of Danilo Pérez develops rapidly in the ears of his audience, unfolding constantly into new levels.

Born in Panama in 1966, Perez started musical studies at just three years of age with his father, a bandleader and singer. By age 10, he had mastered a substantial European classical repertoire at the National Conservatory in Panama, and, after attending the prestigious Berklee College of Music in the United States, Pérez went on to perform with the likes of Jon Hendricks, Claudio Roditi and Paquito D'Rivera. Since the late '80s, he has also toured and/or recorded with Jack DeJohnette, Charlie Haden, Michael Brecker, Joe Lovano, Tito Puente, Wynton Marsalis, John Patitucci, Tom Harrell, Gary Burton, Wayne Shorter, Roy Haynes and other notable jazz musicians.

Perez first attracted the spotlight as the youngest member of Dizzy Gillespie's United Nations Orchestra (1989-1992). This pivotal tenure solidified his command of the eclectic, post-bop Latin style, and brought him to the forefront on Gillespie’s Grammy Award-winning recording, Live At The Royal Festival Hall (Enja), an appearance at the Kennedy Center, and worldwide touring.

Tickets for Danilo Pérez are $25 and $15; 17 and under are $10; Five College students are $10 and $7. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or check out our website at www.fineartscenter.com/centerseries. Danilo Perez is sponsored, in part, by WEIB 106.3FM.

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