FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 15, 2003

WHAT: The Center Series presents Dianne Reeves

WHEN: Thursday, February 6 at 7:30pm

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

(JAZZ DIVA DIANNE REEVES LAUNCHES CENTER SERIES SPRING SEASON)

Recognized as one of jazz's pre-eminent vocalists, Dianne Reeves is one of the most significant singers to come into her own in the last ten years. During the same decade that saw the passing of so many great female jazz vocalists—Sarah Vaughan, Carmen McRae, Ella Fitzgerald, Betty Carter and others—Reeves is among a handful of new singers arrived in the '90s to carry the torch into the future. Dianne Reeves will perform at the Fine Arts Center's Bowker Auditorium on Thursday, February 6 at 7:30 pm.

Accompanied by Greg Hutchinson, drums, Peter Martin, piano, and Reuben Rogers, bass, the Dianne Reeves Quartet will perform selections from Reeves' recent album, The Calling: Celebrating Sarah Vaughn (Blue Note, 2001) for which she was awarded a GRAMMY in 2002. The quartet will also perform other works from Reeves' repertoire. The complete program will be announced from the stage the evening of the performance. “It took jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves about 10 seconds [...] to demonstrate why she deserved the Grammy Award she received earlier this year. This was the kind of performance that demands a critic roll out superlatives, but the one word that probably summed up the evening best was ‘Wow!’”

(Denver Post)

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With her strong, agile voice, rhythmic virtuosity, and improvisational ease, Dianne Reeves was clearly born of jazz, but her singing draws upon a world of influences. After a few years of singing in the local clubs of her hometown, Denver, Colorado, she moved to Los Angeles in 1976, only to find that straight-ahead jazz singing was at a commercial low. That’s when she learned to stretch her talent in other directions. She recorded with the Latin fusion group Caldera in which Dianne made a lasting friend: keyboardist Eduardo (Eddie) del Barrio, with whom she has co-written some of her most powerful songs. Reeves also sang with an experimental jazz band with pianist Billy Childs, with whom she has subsequently worked for nearly 25 years.

Now a Blue Note Records recording artist, Dianne has recorded a total of thirteen albums and has won two consecutive GRAMMY Awards (2001 & 2002), for The Calling: Celebrating Sarah Vaughn, and for In The Moment - Live In Concert (Blue Note, 2000). In 2002, Dianne brought down one of the biggest of houses with her spellbinding performance at the Winter Olympics closing ceremonies. She also appeared and sang in the 2002 season finale of Sex and the City. This past November, Dianne was named Creative Chair for Jazz for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Dianne Reeves currently lives in Denver, but spends much of her life on the road. “I really believe in touring,” she says. “It’s the only way you can get close to your audience.”

Tickets for Dianne Reeves are $30, $15; 17 and under $10; Five College Students $10, $7. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or visit our website at www.fineartscenter.com. This performance is part of the Fifth Annual Billy Taylor Jazz Residency. This performance is sponsored, in part, by WEIB 106.3 Smooth FM.