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WHAT: The Fine Arts Center
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Your Ticket to a World of Artistic Excellence
Fine Arts Center/Center Series Announces its 2003-2004 Season

WHERE: Fine Arts Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call (413) 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS for a brochure and tickets, or go online to www.fineartscenter.com

(YOUR TICKET TO A WORLD OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE: FINE ARTS CENTER/CENTER SERIES ANNOUNCES ITS 2003-2004 SEASON)

When the Fine Arts Center offers area patrons a world of artistic excellence, it’s a promise kept all season long. From the opening night concert featuring jazz and world music pianist/composer Danilo Perez & Trio, to the Amherst debut of the acclaimed rock musical Rent, to the beautiful music of Brahms performed by the Tonhalle Orchestra of Zurich, and the outrageousness of Les Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo – the Fine Arts Center/Center Series balances the best in dance, theater, jazz, opera, and classical music. It’s flexibility of programming and affordability that the whole family will enjoy.

JAZZ, WORLD AND POPULAR MUSIC

The season begins with Danilo Perez & Trio, led by a gifted musician and composer renowned for his unique and revolutionary blending of American jazz with African-based rhythms of the Caribbean and the Latin influences of Central and South America.

Contemporary jazz innovator and bassist Dave Holland brings his Grammy Award-winning

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**Big Band** to the house for a night of what’s creative and hip among today’s trailblazing ensembles. From their formative days at Brown University to concert hall stages around the world, the all-male a cappella quintet **Rockapella** will brings their unaccompanied rock and funk-infused soul to new and devoted fans alike.

**DANCE**

Bridging the genres of world music and dance will be the **Krasnoyarsk National Dance Company of Siberia**, in which live music, beautiful costumes, and thrilling choreography combine to captivate audiences. Also on tap with music, theater, and dance will be **Chi**, a breathtaking fusion of acrobatics and martial arts from Shanghai, China. With its unabashedly sexy combination of dance, gymnastics, and performance art, the inventiveness of **Pilobolus** joins forces with the artistry of the **St. Lawrence String Quartet** for their first joint Fine Arts Center performance. Although their outrageous parodies of classical ballet delight their faithful followers, make no mistake about it, the “women” of **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo** are all men who present dazzling performances of classic works like **Swan Lake**.

From South Beach to Amherst one more time comes artistic director Edward Villella’s acclaimed **Miami City Ballet** for a George Balanchine Centennial Celebration featuring an all-Balanchine/Stravinsky program.

**THEATER AND MUSICAL THEATER**

Musical theater fans can enjoy **The Music Man**, Meredith Wilson’s nostalgic all-American salute to music, romance and fast-talking flim-flam, as well as **Rent**, Jonathan Larson’s Pulitzer Prize and Tony-winning reinterpretation of Puccini’s La Boheme. **The Guthrie Theater** performs Shakespeare’s poetic tragedy Othello. Their performances are part of the “Shakespeare in American Communities” initiative through the NEA, and complement a full week residency. The unifying thread of Puppet Theater beginning with the family-friendly **Theatre de L’Oeil** in the fall also returns in the spring for amazing interpretations of Mozart’s **The Magic Flute** and Rossini’s **Barber of Seville**, as only the **Salzburg Marionette Theater** can deliver. Full-fledged opera buffs can enjoy **Opera Verdi Europa’s** first North American tour with an Amherst stop that will showcase **Cavalleria Rusticana** and **I Pagliacci**.

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CLASSICAL MUSIC
With both orchestral and chamber music selections to choose from, a performance by Prague’s own **Talich String Quartet** begins the Center’s second season of its Beethoven Quartet Cycle. The Cycle continues with an appearance by the **Pacifica Quartet**, a young ensemble with a stunning musical reputation. Pre-concert talks and Viennese coffee and desserts for purchase precede both Quartet performances. Finally, the Fine Arts Center’s 2003/2004 season concludes with the Amherst debut of the **Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich**. Conducted by David Zinman, the internationally renowned orchestra of over 100 players will be joined by Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes for an all-Brahms concert in performances of **Piano Concerto No. 1** and **Symphony No. 2**.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Events combining the performing arts with delicious food include the annual **Friends of Fine Arts Center Gala**, to be held Saturday, February 7 at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Holyoke, and a pre-opera dinner in conjunction with a performance of Opera Verdi Europa titled **Bella Notte** on Sunday, March 7 at Hickory Ridge Country Club in south Amherst featuring Italian cuisine that would make even Pagliacci weep for joy.

TICKET INFORMATION
Subscription tickets ($15 - $45 general public) are on sale now, single event tickets go on sale July 15th. A brochure with a complete description of programs is available now by calling the box office at 413.545.2511 or 1.800.999.UMAS. The online version is available at [www.fineartscenter.com/centerseries](http://www.fineartscenter.com/centerseries). Subscribers purchasing 3 or more events in Price range A and B qualify for a 15% discount, and for youth 17 and under, tickets are $10, and $15 for theater and popular events. Five College students also receive substantial discounts, and a 10% senior citizen or UMass employee discount is available on single ticket purchases only. As always, Price Range C tickets are $15 for all Center Series events. The Fine Arts Center also provides tickets to area non-profit, human services organization through its Angel Ticket program.

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