FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 12, 2005  
WHAT: Center Series presents: The Spanish Harlem Orchestra  
WHEN: Thursday, October 6 at 7:30pm  
WHERE: Concert Hall  
         University of Massachusetts Amherst  
         Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or  
         go online to www.fineartscenter.com/tickets  

Press release text and press-quality images are also available on our  
website at www.fineartscenter.com/press  

GRAMMY WINNING SPANISH HARLEM ORCHESTRA OPENS FINE ARTS CENTER  
SEASON WITH EXPLOSIVE CLASSIC SALSA  

The 2005 Grammy award winner for “Best Salsa Album”, Spanish Harlem Orchestra, will bring their classic yet innovative salsa sound to area audiences on Thursday, October 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall. The band’s sophomore album, “Across 110th Street” was released in the spring of 2004 and featured salsa legend Ruben Blades. In addition to winning their Grammy in 2005, Spanish Harlem Orchestra was the recipient of the Best New Artist Award at the 2003 Billboard Latin Music Awards and was nominated for a Grammy in 2002 for Best Salsa Album of the Year.  

Founded by Aaron Luis Levinson in 2000 and directed by Oscar Hernandez, the 13-member Spanish Harlem Orchestra has quickly established itself as one of the pillars of contemporary Latin music. Using the most accomplished players in the New York Latino community, pianist and arranger Oscar Hernandez carries on the tradition with  
-MORE-
outstanding performers such as Ray De La Paz, Willie Torres, and Marco Bermudez, handling vocals.

Dedicated to preserving the vital history of classic Latin dance orchestras, while at the same time writing and arranging new music for the audience of today, Spanish Harlem Orchestra is an act that appeals to people of every age, race, and disposition. SHO has performed internationally in Hong Kong, Istanbul, Glasgow, Brussels, London, Paris, Montreal, and many others.

Two trumpets, two trombones and a baritone sax make up the bracing brass sound, master conga, bongo and timbale players round out the percussion and the upright bass and acoustic piano are the icing on this salsa flavored cake. With a sound both modern and historic and a swing that could revive the dead, Spanish Harlem Orchestra is the signature sound of 21st century Latin music. “It’s an awakening, an underground movement that is surfacing now and crossing cultural barriers,” says Jimmy Bosch, who plays with the orchestra and guest-solos with numerous bands.

The Spanish Harlem Orchestra will perform at the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, Thursday, October 6 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $35, $25, and $15; youth 17 and under are $10 and Five College Students are $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. This performance is sponsored by Bank of America, El Diálogo, and WFCR 88.5.

-END-