THE 2004 MAGIC TRIANGLE JAZZ SERIES PRESENTS:

Joe Fonda and From the Source

The Magic Triangle Jazz Series, produced by WMUA, 91.1FM and the Residential Arts Program of the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, begins its 15th season with a performance by Joe Fonda and From the Source featuring Joe Fonda, bass, Brenda Bufalino, tap dancer, vocalist, poet, concertina; Vicki Dodd, vocals/healer; Herb Roberson, trumpet, Gebhard Ullmann, saxophones and Rudy Walker, drums, on Thursday, February 26, 2004 at Bezanson Recital Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst at 8:00 pm.

Joe Fonda’s From the Source is an interdisciplinary music-performance ensemble that blurs the boundaries between music, dance and healing by engaging the unusual vocal apparitions of body healer with the percussive cadence of a tap dancer. Ancient music, dance, healing and spiritual practice was not thought of as separate. As a response to the alienation of a culture bombarded with fractured images and sound bites, From the Source attempts to unite this unusual group of artist/healers to connect with something larger.

“This successful fusion of the healing and performing arts reacquaints listeners with the balmic and transformative powers of the deepest kind of creativity,” writes Sam Prestianni. “It reconnects us to our communal-spiritual past, and suggests a future of infinite possibility.

Fonda is a composer, bassist, recording artist, interdisciplinary performer and producer. An accomplished international artist, Fonda has performed as a leader in his own ensembles throughout the United States and Europe, and as a sideman with Archie Shepp, Ken McIntyre, Lou Donaldson, Bill and Kenny Barron, Leo Smith, Perry Robinson, Dave Douglas, Curtis Fuller, Mark Whitecage, Marion Brown and Bill Dixon.

Fonda was the bassist with the renowned Anthony Braxton from 1984 through 1999, and was the bassist for the premiere performance of Braxton's opera, Shalla Fears for the Poor, performed at the John Jay Theater in New York. Fonda has released five recordings under his own name (including From the Source on Konnex Records) and five releases co-led with the pianist John Stevens. Fonda was a member of the Creative Musicians Improvisers Forum and Orchestra directed by Leo Smith, and was bassist with the American Tap Dance Orchestra in New York City directed by Brenda Bufalino.

"There is more to creative mastership than the surface of satisfaction and political certainty,” says Anthony Braxton. “The music of Joe Fonda is part of a living tradition of belief and dedication. Future historians will be surprised at the breadth of Mr. Fonda's offerings. This is a real virtuoso and composer of the highest order."

Tickets are $7/students and $12/general public and are available through the Fine Arts Center Box Office, 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS.
