

NEWS RELEASE



UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center

www.fineartscenter.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 2, 2007

WHAT: UMASS FINE ARTS CENTER, CENTER SERIES

Free Community Salsa Party

WHEN: Wednesday, October 17, 7-11pm

WHERE: Open Square, Holyoke, MA

Directions: www.opensquare.com/map_directions.php.

Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for more information

**IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online
<http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerseries/pressreleases/photo.html>**

(UMass Fine Arts Center Partners with El Planeta and Open Square in Holyoke to Throw a Free Community Salsa Party)

On Wednesday, October 17, the UMass Fine Arts Center hosts a free community salsa party at Open Square in Holyoke from 7-11pm. Entertainment will be provided by Combo Sabroso, a Boston-based band that follows in the traditions of Eddie Palmieri and Tito Puente. Their repertoire includes compositions that range in style from Cha Cha to Danzon, from Bolero to Salsa, from Latin jazz to Plena. Zenón used to play with members in the band back in his Berklee days. This is also an opportunity to meet the sponsors of this event and the people behind El Planeta, a new Latino news source in Western Mass. Cocktails and food provided by Artisan Café will be available for purchase. All are welcome!

COMBO SABROSO ("tasty combo") was formed during the summer of 1998 when band leader, pianist/vocalist, Matt Jenson, then living in New Hampshire, made a decision to pursue a much deeper understanding of this music that he loves so much. . He studied with Eddie Palmieri, maintains a friendship with the Maestro and works extensively with Mr. Palmieri's timbale player, Jose Claussell. Jenson assembled the best Latin musicians he could find in Boston and have developed a loyal following. Jenson teaches piano and a class on Bob Marley at Berklee College of Music, incorporates his blues and reggae influences by bringing Latin dance arrangements of various American R&B and Jamaican reggae tunes to the Afro-Cuban table.

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Combo Sabroso features from Costa Rica, **Manolo Miarena**, a well known percussionist and singer who has performed internationally with La Timba Loca, the Latin Party Boys and pianist Rafael Alcala. Performing on timbales and vocals, from Venezuela is **Ernesto Diaz**. Known for his enthusiastic and animated performance style he has been a mainstay in the Boston Latin music scene for 20 years and is on the faculty at Berklee College of Music. Peruvian bassist and singer **Alex Alvear**, is also an anchor of the Latin music scene in Boston and NYC and is known for his organic and infectious tumbao (groove) and amazing vocal work. He leads his own group, Mango Blue and has performed with many internationally known Latin artists including Paquito D’Rivera. On horns, Combo Sabroso presents trombonist **Scott Flynn**, recent Berklee College grad, and saxophonist **Matt Langley**. Scott, now at the beginning of his musical career, is quite in demand in Boston and known for his diversity, spirit and drive on the instrument. Matt Langley's relentless tenor playing is well-known throughout New England and in has recorded with the Charlie Kohlhase Quintet.

This event is part of the Fine Arts Center’s Hispanic Heritage Series and the Miguel Zenón Artist-in-Residency outreach. It is sponsored by Bank of America, El Planeta, Open Square and WEIB 106.3.

For directions to Open Square please go online to www.opensquare.com/map_directions.php.

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