

Asian Arts & Culture Program Series



NEWS RELEASE

---

**For Immediate Release**

**CONTACT:** Glenn Siegel 413-545-2876 [gsiegel@stuaf.umass.edu](mailto:gsiegel@stuaf.umass.edu)  
Sue McFarland 413-577-2486 [aacp@acad.umass.edu](mailto:aacp@acad.umass.edu)

**WHAT:** Dakshina Ensemble: Kinsman

**WHEN:** Sunday, November 18, 4:00 PM

**WHERE:** Bowker Auditorium, UMass, Amherst

**South Indian Saxophone Masters from both Sides of the Atlantic**

The Magic Triangle Jazz Series, produced by WMUA, 91.1FM and the Asian Arts & Culture Program at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, present **The Dakshina Ensemble: Kinsman** on Sunday, November 18, 2007, in Bowker Auditorium at 4:00 pm. The Dakshina Ensemble, features alto saxophonists Kadri Gopalnath and Rudresh Mahanthappa along with A. Kanyakumari (violin), Rez Abbasi (sitar-guitar), Carlo de Rosa (bass), Poovalur Srinivasan (mridangam) and Royal Hartigan (drums). The two saxophone masters—one a living legend of South Indian Carnatic music and the other a fiercely innovative Indian American jazz musician—were commissioned by the Asia Society to present and produce the USA tour. Stretching the boundaries, Kadri Gopalnath has introduced and adapted a relatively new western instrument to the traditions of Indian Carnatic music. By fusing a myriad of contemporary and traditional influences, Rudresh Mahanthappa draws on his Indian ancestry and combines it with his American jazz foundation into highly improvisational work. The distinction between their respective influences, training and idiom is both complicated and enhanced by both their shared instrument and South Indian heritage.

Kadri Gopalnath, a true phenomenon in the world of Indian classical music, gave his first concert in 1977 and became an instant sensation. His fame soon spread throughout India where he has frequently been the highlight of festivals and concerts. In 2004, Kadri Gopalnath was awarded Padmashree, the highest award given to an artist in India, by President Sri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Gopalnath has played with many leading jazz musicians including the saxophonist John Handy and has collaborated on an album with flautist James Newton. According to The Illustrated Weekly, “The music of Kadri Gopalnath would make a stone melt and he can do anything with the bass register except eat it.”

**-MORE-**

Named a Rising Star of the alto saxophone by the Downbeat International Critics Poll for the past three years, Rudresh Mahanthappa is one of the most innovative young musicians in jazz today. His most recent recordings, Codebook and Raw Materials were named two of the top jazz albums of 2006 by the Village Voice and Jazztimes. Rudresh is also the recent winner of a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship. He has performed with David Murray, Steve Coleman, Jack DeJohnette, Samir Chatterjee, Von Freeman and his long-time collaborator, Vijay Iyer. "Mahanthappa creates a music that is at once technically brilliant yet musically cogent, harmonically adventurous yet expressively straightforward," proclaims The Chicago Tribune.

The UMass Bowker Auditorium is located in Stockbridge Hall across from the Campus Center Parking Garage. A special \$1 parking rate will be available for show patrons. Tickets are \$15 General seating and \$7 Five college students and Youth 17 & under and are available at the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 1-800-999-UMAS or 413-545-2511 For more information about the Asian Arts and Culture Program events: [www.umass.edu/fac/asian](http://www.umass.edu/fac/asian) or call the AACP office: (413) 577-2486. The Magic Triangle Jazz Concert Series is produced by WMUA-FM and the Fine Arts Center, and funded by the: UMass Arts Council, Student Affairs Cultural Enrichment Fund, Alumni Association and Commuter Area Government. Additional support from: Campus Center Hotel and 88.5 WFCR, NPR News and Music for Western New England.

“ Dazzling Audiences around the world “

Electronic format press release and downloadable high resolution photos for this event are available at: <http://www.umass.edu/fac/asian/press.html> or <http://www.umass.edu/fac/magictriangle/index.html>.

**-End-**

**Calendar Editor:**

**Performance:** Dakshina Ensemble: Kinsman. November 18, 2007, 4:00 PM Bowker Auditorium, UMass, Amherst. Tickets: \$15 General, \$7 Youth 17 & under. For tickets call: 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511. Online at [www.fineartscenter.com](http://www.fineartscenter.com). Information: Asian Arts & Culture Program (413) 577-2486 or Magic Triangle Jazz Series at: <http://www.umass.edu/fac/magictriangle/index.html>

