

**Fine Arts Center Asian Arts & Culture Program**

UMassAmherst

**For Immediate Release**

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**CONTACT:** Sue McFarland, 413-577-2486    [aacp@acad.umass.edu](mailto:aacp@acad.umass.edu)  
**WHAT:**     **Rumi: Poetic Readings by Peter Rogen with Music by Amir Vahab**  
**WHEN:**     **Sunday, October 25 at 3 PM**  
**WHERE:**    **First Churches, 129 Main St., Northampton, MA**  
**TICKETS:** **Fine Arts Center Box Office 545-2511/ 1-800-999-UMAS**

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*An Afternoon of 13<sup>th</sup> Century Persian Poetry at Northampton's First Churches*

Please join the UMass Fine Arts Center Asian Arts & Culture Program in a special outreach event with a performance of **Rumi: Poetic Readings by Peter Rogen with Music by Amir Vahab**. Held on **Sunday, October 25 at 3 PM** in the **First Churches**, 129 Main St., Northampton, the event is in remembrance of local Pioneer Valley resident Sufi Bashir Ahamed. Tickets are \$20 for the general public and \$15 for Five College GCC/STCC students and youth 17 & under and are available at the Fine Arts Center Box Office and the door. Please call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511. Online: [umasstix.com](http://umasstix.com)

The poetry of Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi, recognized for its loving spirituality, has spread throughout the world, and has made him one of the greatest literary and spiritual figures of all time. **Peter Rogen**, an ardent Rumi devotee, received a Rockefeller Grant for study in the American theater and has performed Shakespeare plays with The Helen Hayes Equity Theater at BAM in New York. More recently, Rogen has performed Rumi's poetry at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, and the National Cathedral in Washington DC. **Amir Vahab**, a wonderful, internationally recognized musician and singer will play the ney flute, tanbour and daf frame drum. Amir will also recite and sing verses of Rumi in Farsi and Turkish. The event will open with a special introduction by Reverend Peter Ives and Asian Arts & Culture Program Director Ranjanaa Devi.

###MORE###

Presented in collaboration with the First Churches in Northampton and the Turkish Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts.

[www.poetryofrumi.com](http://www.poetryofrumi.com)

[www.tanbour.org](http://www.tanbour.org)

**Please see our website at [www.fineartscenter.com/asian](http://www.fineartscenter.com/asian) for additional information, including a complete schedule of events, locations, times, and ticket prices. Tickets available online: [www.fineartscenter.com](http://www.fineartscenter.com) or by calling 1-800-999-UMAS or 413-545-2511.**

**Downloadable high resolution photos and electronic versions of press releases for performance events are available at: <http://www.umass.edu/fac/asian/press.html>.**

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