

NEWS RELEASE



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WHAT: The Fine Arts Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Center Series Announces its 2007-2008 Season

WHERE: Fine Arts Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call (413) 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS for a brochure and tickets, or go online to
www.fineartscenter.com

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

(UMass Fine Arts Center Opens Season with Free Dance Party)

The UMass Fine Arts Center covers the globe in its upcoming 07-08 season and what better way to kick it off than with a free dance party featuring the incendiary sounds of Grammy-nominated Tiempo Libre. Acclaimed as "the top timba group in the United States today" this Miami-based Cuban powerhouse performs Thursday, September 6 at 8pm at the Campus Center Auditorium. Free salsa lessons are being offered at 7pm by Boricuas Unidos. Presented as part of UMass Amherst First Week offerings in collaboration with the Office of Programs and Services for ALANA Students.

Center Series Director Kathryn Maguet, who joined the FAC staff in last December, unveils her inaugural season calling it a move to a new era for the Fine Arts Center with a focus on bringing in performers of the highest artistry from around the globe, representing a wide array of ethnicity and nationality, as well as projects that foster artistic innovation and collaboration coupled with campus and community engagement. This season reflects the Fine Arts Center's increasingly active curatorial role in encouraging and seeking out diverse artists who are bringing their deeply personal work to the Pioneer Valley community, performers who are dynamic collaborators and who transform creative ideas from within a defined context through fresh perspectives.

The season continues in late September with the Dutch Theater company **Kassys** performing its profoundly sad yet hilarious work *Kommer*, combining film and live performance in equal measure. It's followed on October 3rd with **Noche Flamenco & Soledad Barrio** creating dynamic interplay between the instrumentation, singing and powerful footwork. Hailed as "one of the world's great dance companies," **Jose Limón Dance Company** performs a mixed repertoire on October 12th. Quickly becoming a central figure in the new Latin jazz movement, alto-sax player **Miguel Zenon** effortlessly blends bebop with the complex rhythms of Latin jazz. He brings his quartet to Bowker October 18th. On October 20th, **Rosanne Cash** presents her multi-media presentation *Black Cadillac: The Concert* where she invites the audience on a stirring trip through the images, sounds, words and music of her personal and musical legacy.

November begins with **Teatro Lirico D'Europa**, performing Puccini's tale of selfless love, *Tosca*. Then for something completely different, on November 16th-18th, the university will host **Unbroken Chain: The**

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Grateful Dead in Music, Culture, and Memory, a symposium and conference combining academic inquiry, performance, and artistic appreciation. As for the musical contributions, there will be two seminal performances that celebrate the Grateful Dead: the **American Beauty Project** on Friday, November 16th and **Dark Star Orchestra**, Saturday, November 17th. Unbroken Chain is presented by the UMass Amherst Graduate School, Department of History, Fine Arts Center and University Outreach and University Research. On November 27, the **Shaolin Warriors** from China make their premier visit to the Fine Arts Center where they will showcase their versatile kicks, stunning flying swords, compact moves, and powerful martial arts prowess. On November 30th, the four-time Grammy winning Blind Boys of Alabama will share their spirit and energy of pure soul gospel music in a concert that incorporates contemporary songs and innovative arrangements. The fall season closes with **Cherish the Ladies** on December 12th. With their spectacular blend of instrumental talents, beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements and stunning step dancing, this powerhouse group combines all facets of Celtic culture in an immensely warm, humorous and entertaining event

Starting the spring portion of the season on February 5th will be the beautiful sacred music of jazz great Duke Ellington performed by the Grammy award winning **Turtle Island Quartet** and one of today's most formidable jazz vibraphonists **Stefon Harris**. From across the pond comes the **Academy of Ancient Music** on February 23rd performing a program of Bach, Telemann and Handel. **Adam Rudolph** brings his Moving Pictures ensemble to Bowker on the 28th presented in cooperation with the Magic Triangles Jazz series. This group reinvents world music for sophisticated listeners fusing many languages, instrumentation and cosmologies into a very artful and keenly constructed performance. Then on February 29th, the Fine Arts Center throws a big pajama party for all those young and young at heart with **Dan Zanes and Friends**. 2007 Grammy winner Zanes occupies a unique place in American music where sea shanties, Broadway standards, North American and West Indian folk music, fiddle tunes, and the spirit of rock-and-roll collide.

On March 4th the longest continually-running jazz festival in the world, the **Monterey Jazz Festival** celebrates its 50th anniversary and stops in Amherst while on a national tour. Maintaining Monterey's tradition of presenting the titans alongside rising stars, this performance features Terence Blanchard, James Moody, Benny Green, Nnenna Freelon, Derrick Hodge and Kendrick Scott. And on March 12th, just in time for some wearin' o' the green, Canadian super group **Leahy** deliver a triple threat of fiddle-driven music, step dancing and vocals. Closing the month on the 29th will be **Christian McBride** and his band. McBride has arguably become the most acclaimed acoustic and electric bassist to emerge from the jazz world.

April closes the season in style with three performances including **Ron Brown** and his dance company **Evidence** on April 12th. His latest work, *One Shot: Dance Sessions*, is inspired by the beauty and legacy captured in the photographs of noted African-American documentary photographer Charles "Teenie" Harris. On April 25th **Lila Downs** brings her extraordinary voice to the Fine Arts Center. Motivated by the songs and stories of the Oaxacan people, Downs infuses jazz, gospel, and hip-hop influences into traditional cumbias for a powerful musical, cultural and political statement. The season's finale on April 30th features **Imani Winds**, a

young ensemble of African/Latin American heritage that has established a distinct presence in the classical music world.

Subscription and single tickets (\$15 - \$35 general public) are on sale now. There are also prix fixe Global Gourmet dinners being offered at the University Club prior to and after select performances. A brochure with a complete description of programs is available by calling the box office at 413.545.2511 or 1.800.999.UMAS. For more information about the artists, visitor information, other Fine Arts Center events, or to get on the Fine Arts Center's mailing list, go to fineartscenter.com.

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CENTER SERIES 2007-2008

Tiempo Libre
Thursday, September 6
Campus center
Auditorium, 8pm

Kassys: *Kommer* (Grief)
Thursday, September 27
and Friday, September 28
Bowker Auditorium,
7:30pm

Noche Flamenca &
Soledad Barrio
Wednesday, October 3
Bowker Auditorium,
7:30pm

Jose Limón Dance
Company
Friday, October 12
Concert Hall, 8pm

Miguel Zenón
Thursday, October 18
Bowker Auditorium,
7:30pm

Rosanne Cash: Black
Cadillac The Concert
Saturday, October 20
Concert Hall, 8pm

Tosca
Performed by Teatro Lirico
D'Europa
Sunday, November 4
Concert Hall, 3pm

American Beauty Project
Friday, November 16
Concert Hall, 8pm

Dark Star Orchestra
Saturday, November 17
Concert Hall, 8pm

Shaolin Warriors
Tuesday, November 27
Concert Hall, 7:30pm

Blind Boys of Alabama
Friday, November 30
Concert Hall, 8pm

Cherish the Ladies
A Celtic Christmas
Celebration
Wednesday, December 12
Concert Hall, 7:30pm

Turtle Island Quartet with
Stefon Harris *Divine Duke*
Tuesday, February 5
Bowker Auditorium,
7:30pm

Academy of Ancient Music
Saturday, February 23
Concert Hall, 8pm

Adam Rudolph's Moving
Pictures
Thursday, February 28
Bowker Auditorium,
7:30pm

Dan Zanes and Friends
Pajama Party
Friday, February 29
Concert Hall, 7:30pm

Monterey Jazz Festival
50th Anniversary Jazz All-
Stars
Tuesday, March 4
Concert Hall, 7:30pm

Leahy
Wednesday, March 12
Concert Hall, 7:30pm

Christian McBride Band
Saturday, March 29
Concert Hall, 8pm

Ronald K. Brown/Evidence
Saturday, April 12
Concert Hall, 8pm

Lila Downs
Friday, April 25
Concert Hall, 8pm

Imani Winds
Wednesday, April 30
Bowker Auditorium,
7:30pm