

# NEWS RELEASE



**UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center**

**[www.fineartscenter.com](http://www.fineartscenter.com)**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 11, 2008**

**WHAT: UMass FINE ARTS CENTER, CENTER SERIES**

**DAN ZANES AND FRIENDS PAJAMA PARTY**

**WHEN: Friday, February 29 at 7:30pm, 2008**

**WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or  
go online to [www.fineartscenter.com/tickets](http://www.fineartscenter.com/tickets)**

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<http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerseries/pressreleases/photo.html>**

## **(Dan Zanes and Friends Throw Pajama Party for Valley Families at UMass FAC)**

When rock and roller Dan Zanes (Del Fuegos) got married and became a father, he thought he would be giving up his music career. Instead, becoming a dad led Zanes to realize that most of the music made for kids seemed calculated to drive parents crazy, and prompted him to start writing, recording, and performing music that parents and their little ones could enjoy together. The result has been both a second career for Zanes and a new musical genre full of happy tunes, eccentric instrumentation, and good times for listeners young and old. Zanes will bring his five-piece band for a Pajama Party at the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. The band for the Fine Arts Center performance includes Zanes (guitar, vocals), Colin Brooks (drums), Sonia de Los Santos (guitar, vocals), John Foti (accordion), Anne Lieberwirth (bass), and Elena Moon Park (violin). There will be a pre-show party for families, an annual affair, with free cookies, beverages and a hands-on craft activity provided by the staff of FamilyFun Magazine. Bandy Bear and staff and from the Baystate Medical Practices division will also be there to hand out goody bags while they last. The party starts in the lobby at 6:30pm.

Zanes, a former member of the Boston-based Del Fuegos, which was named "Best New Band" by Rolling Stone in 1984, has made five albums of his engaging family music for his self-run label, Festival Five Records, including the 2007 Grammy Award-winning *Catch That Train*. "Zanes' music works because it's not kids' music; it's just music," wrote New York Times

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magazine. Zanes has said that he is dedicated to a vision of family music-making and “a singing, dancing, freewheeling, shaking, inclusive America.” Making music with friends and family, he has stated, “restores our spirits and gives us hope for the future; it gives us a sense of life’s best possibilities. When we make music together, we share our stories. We welcome each other into our lives. We give our children new ideas for social living and in return they show us how to dance like bears, or birds, or ice cream cones. And we have fun...unbelievable fun.” Center Series Programming Director Kathryn Maguet agrees, “The beauty of a Dan Zanes performance is built upon his belief that EVERYONE is invited to this party and that EVERYONE can share in the joy of music-making.”

Born in Exeter, New Hampshire, in 1961, Zanes spent the 1980s as a member of the Del Fuegos, which recorded five albums and had a hit single, “I Still Want You,” on the Billboard charts in 1986. After the band broke up, Zanes released a solo CD, *Cool Down Time*, in 1994. Shortly after that he moved to Brooklyn, New York, with his wife and daughter, where he released *Rocket Ship Beach*, an album of children’s music, on the Festival Five label in 2000, and the CD became an immediate hit with families around the country.

Zanes followed up with *Family Dance* in 2001, which featured Loudon Wainwright III and Roseanne Cash, and *Night Time!* in 2002, which featured collaborations with Aimee Mann and Lou Reed. The 2003 CD *House Party*, a rambunctious 21-song collection that includes Deborah Harry, Bob Weir, and Philip Glass, was nominated for a Grammy Award, and in 2007, *Catch That Train!* won a Grammy for Best Musical Album for Children. The album brings together the Kronos Quartet, the Blind Boys of Alabama, the children of South Africa’s Agape Orphanage, and others to sing Zulu folk songs, an old labor organizing tune, a song about the joys of farming the English countryside, train songs, and more.

Zanes is also the author of two picture-book collaborations with artist Donald Saaf, *Jump Up!* and *Hello Hello* (Little, Brown, and Co.), and he can be seen in the Dan Zanes and Friends concert video and DVD, *All Around the Kitchen!*, recorded in 2005 at the Knitting Factory in New York City.

Dan Zanes and Friends perform on Friday, February 29th at 7:30pm in the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall. Tickets are \$35, \$25, and \$15, Youth 17 and under are \$12 and Five College Students are \$15, \$10, and \$7. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or go online to [www.fineartscenter.com](http://www.fineartscenter.com). This performance is sponsored by Baystate Medical Practices, FamilyFun Magazine, Disney and WRNX 100.9FM.

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