

NEWS RELEASE

UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center www.fineartscenter.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 12, 2008

WHAT: Fine Arts Center and WFCR 88.5 FM's Jazz à la Mode Series Presents
Dave Pietro's *Chakra Suite*
Friday, October 3, 8 PM
Top of Campus Marriott Center

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UMass Fine Arts Center and WFCR 88.5 FM's Jazz à la Mode Series Presents **Dave Pietro's *Chakra Suite***

Tom Reney of the UMass-based public radio station WFCR 88.5 FM has charted the course of jazz and American popular song in a weeknight show that has introduced a generation to the wonders of swing, bop, and ballads. Renewing a partnership begun many years ago, WFCR has joined with the Fine Arts Center to present the Jazz à la Mode series at the newest "hot spot" for jazz--the Top of Campus Marriott Center--where listeners can enjoy spectacular views of the Valley and hear great jazz.

The series kicks off on Friday, October 3 at 8:00 P.M. with a performance by saxophone master Dave Pietro and his quartet, who will be performing the commissioned work, *Chakra Suite*.

A native of Southboro, Massachusetts, Dave Pietro has been on the New York jazz scene since 1987. His talents as a gifted saxophonist, composer, and educator have made him an in-demand musician leading to performances at jazz clubs, jazz festivals, schools and concert halls in more than 30 countries throughout Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America.

>From 1994-2003 Dave played lead alto saxophone and recorded six CD's with the Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra. He has also toured and/or recorded with the bands of Woody Herman, Lionel Hampton, Maynard Ferguson, Maria Schneider, The Village

Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, John Fedchock, Mike Holober, Anita Brown, Pete McGuinness and Arturo O'Farrill among others. In addition Pietro has performed with many other well known musicians such as Paul Anka, Louis Bellson, Blood Sweat & Tears, Bobby Caldwell, Ray Charles, Rosemary Clooney, Harry Connick Jr., Michael Feinstein, Chaka Khan, Liza Minnelli, James Naughton and John Pizzarelli. Dave also studies East Indian music and has performed with various groups led by Indian tablaist Sandip Burman.

As a leader, Dave has released six CD's with musicians such as Dave Holland, Kenny Werner, Ben Monder, Bill Stewart, Brian Blade, Scott Colley, Scott Wendholt, Duduka De Fonseca, Helio Alves and Pete McCann. "Now Becoming Then" (1999 A-Records) was called a "rich feast for listeners" by Bill Bennett of Jazz Times. "Standard Wonder-The Music of Stevie Wonder" (A-Records) was voted one of the top 10 jazz CD's of 2001 by Bob Blumenthal of the Boston Globe and Bill Milkowski of Jazz Times and received 4 stars from Downbeat magazine. Pietro's fifth CD "Embrace: Impressions of Brazil" (2004 A-Records) "is a triumph...one of the most satisfying Brazilian jazz mixes since the first bossa nova tsunami" according to Judith Schlesinger of AllAboutJazz.com.

Dave was selected as a semi-finalist for the first two Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz International Saxophone Competitions (1991 & 1996) and was a finalist in the 1995 JAZZIZ Magazine "Woodwinds on Fire" talent search. In 1996 he was the recipient of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and in 2002 he was selected as runner-up in the Second Annual Jazzconnect.com International Jazz Competition. In 2005 he was the recipient of a grant from Chamber Music America's New Works: Creation and Presentation Program and recently recorded his newly commissioned piece "The Chakra Suite" with Gary Versace, Rez Abbasi, Todd Isler, Johannes Weidenmueller and Adam Cruz. It will be released next month on the Challenge Records label. This is the work that Pietro will be performing in the Jazz à la Mode series.

General Seating Tickets for Dave Pietro are \$15; Five College/GCC Students and Youth 17 and under are \$15. They are available through the Fine Arts Center Box office at 545-2511, 1-800-999-UMAS and online at fineartscenter.com. Light fare and a cash bar will be available at the show.

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