NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 20, 2013

WHAT: An Afternoon with Gary Smulyan & Friends
WHEN: Sunday, April 28, 2013 at 3 p.m.
WHERE: J.C.A - The Jewish Community of Amherst, 742 Main Street, Amherst, MA
TICKETS: $15 Suggested Donation at the door
IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online: https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressRoom

VALLEY JAZZ NETWORK PRESENTS SIX TIME GRAMMY WINNER AND BARITONE SAXOPHONIST OF THE YEAR, GARY SMULYAN

"His playing is marked by an aggressive rhythmic sense, an intelligent and creative harmonic approach and perhaps most importantly - a strong and incisive wit."
– Seth Graves, www.WeAlwaysSwing.org- Jazz Series Concert Review

On Sunday, April 28th Gary Smulyan -- along with Pete Malinverni (piano), Ray Drummond (bass) and Billy Drummond (drums) -- will present an afternoon of their music at 3:00 at the Jewish Community of Amherst, 742 Main St. in Amherst. All are welcome! This concert is presented by the Valley Jazz Network as part of its mission of outreach, education, and audience development. Gary and the members of the band – all teachers in their own right as well as master musicians -- will spend some time, in addition to playing, talking about the deep forms and structures, the “architecture” of jazz music in order to help those who are already fans, deepen their appreciation of it, and to unlock the doors to the music for those who may feel on the periphery – mystified, intimidated, or just unsure how to listen to jazz. That will change after this program, guaranteed! Gary and the other musicians will stay as long as necessary to answer questions and engage in conversation with the audience – the setting will be informal, and there will be a reception following the concert.

GARY SMULYAN, the leading voice on the baritone saxophone is a multi-year winner of the Jazz Times and Downbeat Magazine’s Reader’s Poll and Critic’s Poll Awards for Baritone Saxophonist of the Year. He is also the 2012 Jazz Journalist Baritone Saxophonist of the Year. Smulyan has performed and produced with a who’-s-who of music greats including Dizzy Gillespie, Freddie Hubbard, Chick Corea, Stan Getz, Ray Charles, B.B. King and Diana Ross.

Whether performing with another group or leading his own band, Gary Smulyan brings to the stage his sassy and deep tones, with a style and savvy representative of his great musicianship. He has won six Grammy Awards and is much more than a musician: he is a band leader, a teacher and a music producer. His baritone saxophone lessons appear online at www.jazzteacher.com and his most recent CD, Smul’s Paradise, was named one of the best CDs of 2012 and featured in the December 2012 Critic’s Choice issue of Jazziz Magazine.
Gary got the jazz bug early in high school sitting in with artists like Chet Baker and Lee Konitz. After college he joined Woody Herman’s Young Thundering Herd. With him in that band were saxophonist Joe Lovano, bassist Marc Johnson and drummer John Riley—all major names in jazz today. In 1980, he became part of the Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra. He also worked with the Mingus Big Band and the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra.

He works regularly with Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, with the Joe Lovano Nonet and with the Dave Holland Octet and Big Band. He earned one of his six Grammy awards for his work with B.B.King, Joe Lovano and the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra. He has also enjoyed regular appearances with tenor saxophonist George Coleman and the Dizzy Gillespie All-Star Big Band.

PETE MALINVERNI (piano) has performed or recorded in the company of Joe Lovano, James Spaulding, Joe Romano, Charles Davis, Clark Terry, Major Holley, Rufus Reid, and more. He is a teacher much in demand, serving as a professor on the jazz faculties of New York University, William Paterson University, and the Conservatory of Music at Purchase. He has also taught jazz appreciation to non-music majors at NYU and classical ear training at Purchase.

RAY DRUMMOND (bass) is a composer, arranger, bandleader, educator and producer and has played with jazz greats like Betty Carter, Wynton Marsalis, Woody Shaw, Hank Jones, Jon Faddis, Milt Jackson, Johnny Griffin, Kenny Barron, Pharoah Sanders, George Coleman and more. Additionally, he has been documented on over 300 recordings with artists including Art Farmer, David Murray, Houston Person, Stan Getz, Kenny Burrell, Kevin Mahogany, Toots Thielemans and more. Drummond records and performs live with a diverse number of emerging artists including Joe Locke, Steve Wilson, Paul Bollenback, Jessica Williams, Rob Schneiderman and Jeanie Bryson. Currently, he is a member of the faculty at The Juilliard School, New York City.

BILLY DRUMMOND (drums) is a powerful and highly musical player who has played extensively with Horace Silver and Sonny Rollins. He has recorded and/or performed with some of the world’s greatest jazz musicians - including Joe Henderson, J J Johnson, Eddie Gomez, Bobby Hutcherson, Freddie Hubbard, Charles Tolliver, McCoy Tyner, Joe Lovano, Christian McBride, Javon Jackson and more. He is currently Professor of Jazz Drums at the Juilliard School of Music and NYU in New York City.

ABOUT VALLEY JAZZ NETWORK (VJN)
The VJN is an outreach arm of the Fine Arts Center, focused on preserving the legacy of jazz. The VJN achieves this through its online presence (the VJN Facebook page is a virtual listing of jazz events throughout the Pioneer Valley! ) and educational programs, like listening parties and other music events in various venues in Amherst, Greenfield, and soon Holyoke and Springfield. A listening party is a small and intimate event, where attendees have a chance to talk with jazz musicians, and listen to the music that has inspired them. VJN sponsored listening parties with Tia Fuller and most recently, with Jane Monheit. This April 28 event will be the first concert of this size offered by the VJN.

TICKETS: There is a suggested donation of $15 at the door. Proceeds will go to support this event and future VJN programming.

PHOTOS
Hi-res photos available for download: https://fac.umass.edu/Online/article/Images.

ABOUT THE FAC
The Fine Arts Center, located on the UMass Amherst campus, is a presenter of music, dance, theater and the visual arts, bringing hundreds of outstanding and provocative artists to the Pioneer Valley for over 35 years.

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