



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 20, 2014

WHAT: Tracing Jazz Rhythms: Workshop with Bob Weiner
WHEN: Monday, March 24, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: The Octagon, Amherst College
TICKETS: \$15 Suggested Donation at the door
IMAGES: Hi-res photos available for download: <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressRoom>
WEBSITE: www.umass.edu/fineartscenter

VALLEY JAZZ NETWORK PRESENTS TRACING JAZZ RHYTHMS WORKSHOP WITH RENOWN PERCUSSIONIST, BOB WEINER

Where does the "swing" in jazz originate?

The evolution of jazz and its subsequent effects on American music are significant topics that have inspired essays, books, movies and recordings worldwide. Now the Valley Jazz Network tackles the subject with an interactive workshop by renowned percussionist Bob Weiner. This workshop takes place **Monday, March 24 from 7:30-9:30 pm at the Octagon Building, Amherst College**. There is a suggested donation of \$15 to support future Valley Jazz Network programs.

This workshop entitled, **Tracing Jazz Rhythms Through West Africa, New Orleans and Modern Jazz** will explore some of the important West African music traditions (Senegal, Mali, Guinee) that are at the root of what evolved into the North American jazz tradition. Important geographical areas, New Orleans in particular, was an important jazz center, where a new culture and musical language was created by the African- American community. Drums were a big part of this evolution (snare drum, bass drum, cymbal), that lead to the origin of the drum set and unique jazz rhythms. Then next stop was swing, bop, post-bop and hip-hop. Bob Weiner focuses particularly on Elvin Jones, the masterful drummer with John Coltrane, Wayne Shorter and many others, to illustrate how West African rhythms and principles have come full circle in a modern context.

There will be a live drum performance, as well as video and audio examples shown to illustrate this incredible evolution.

BOB WEINER is a drummer and percussionist who has toured and performed with Harry Belafonte, Itzhak Perlman, Betty Buckley, Jon Lucien, Dianne Reeves, Andy Statman, Rebecca Paris, Kenny Werner, Bob Moses, and many others. He has taught at the Drummers Collective (New York, NY), New England Conservatory (Boston, MA), and Berklee College of Music (Boston, MA). He has also co-authored two important percussion books, Afro-Cuban Rhythms for Drumset with Frank Malabe and Brazilian Rhythms

for Drumset with Duduka da Fonseca (Alfred Music). He holds a Masters at Lesley University in Inter-Disciplinary Studies and has taught a course in the Expressive Therapies program (Lesley University) entitled "Community and Therapeutic Applications of Drumming." Bob currently teaches percussion and drumming to 5 College music students, as well as privately. Bob has a particular interest in depth psychology (Jungian studies) and contemplative practices (meditation, tai chi/qi gong) and how they apply to the arts and improvisation.

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!) small concerts called "informances", educational programs, and listening parties in various community venues in Amherst, Greenfield, 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/PressRoom>

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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