



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 5, 2014

WHAT: Latin Jazz Informance
WHEN: Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Gateway City Arts, 92 Race Street, Holyoke, MA
TICKETS: \$15 Suggested Donation at the door
IMAGES: Hi-res photos available for download: <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressRoom>
WEBSITE: www.valleyjazznetwork.com

VALLEY JAZZ NETWORK PRESENTS , A LATIN JAZZ "INFORMANCE"

Artists like Poncho Sanchez, Tito Puente, Arturo Sandoval, Dizzy Gillespie, Paquito D'Rivera, Dave Valentin all contributed to the birthing and development of Latin Jazz. On May 7th, the Valley Jazz Network (VJN) presents "A Latin Jazz Informance" featuring The GONZALEZ BROTHERS QUINTET (Rene and Ahmed Gonzalez) and UMass professor, scholar and musician FELIPE SALLES.

"Informance" is a phrase the VJN uses to describe the nature of their educational events: an information-sharing performance. In this case, we have the Gonzalez Brothers Quintet and musician and scholar Felipe Salles collaborating together to make this event a unique one, jam packed with history and performance!

"The Latin influence on American music precedes what we know as Latin jazz. We will be examining the original rhythms, the players, and how their style contributed to the birth of Latin jazz, as well as demonstrating it through some of the important repertoire," says Felipe Salles.

Rene Gonzalez adds, "And once the music set starts, we're gonna play and I really hope people will dance!"

The event takes place at the Gateway City Arts, 92 Race Street, Holyoke, MA.

"One of our initiatives is to offer these events in community settings," says Lee Hines, a member of the Valley Jazz Network Steering Committee. "We are glad to engage and partner with community venues to facilitate further pathways to supporting jazz in this community." The Gateway City Arts offers a relaxed, cabaret-style environment for this event. A cash bar (beer and wine) as well hors d'oeuvres and salads will be available for a small fee.

About the Artists:

THE GONZALEZ BROTHERS QUINTET is headed by Rene and Ahmed Gonzalez. The brothers grew up around music—their father Jose Gonzalez is an accomplished musician, well known for his recordings featuring *the cuatro*, Puerto Rico’s national instrument. Rene Gonzalez began performing at age 9, focused on Afro-Cuban music styles. He studied for many years with percussionist Freddie Moreno, David “La Mole” Ortiz and Tito De Gracia among others. His brother Ahmed has been a flutist for over 15 years, focused on Latin American musical styles, classical music and American jazz. Both Rene and Ahmed have performed alongside a long list of musicians including Giovanni Hidalgo, Roy Brown, Eddie Temporal, Ray Gonzalez and more. They have toured throughout the United States and the Caribbean. The Quintet features **Idalberto Perdomo** (drums), **David Yih** (piano), **Ahmed Gonzalez** (flute), **Victor Sterling-Duprey** (congas) and **Rene Gonzalez** (bass).

FELIPE SALLES (www.sallesjazz.com) is a native of Sao Paulo Brazil, and has been an active musician in the US since 1995. He has worked and recorded with prominent jazz artists like George Russell, Gunther Schuller, Sam Rivers, Herb Pomeroy, Jerry Bergonzi, Jovino Santos Neto, David Liebman, and more. In addition, Felipe Salles has studied with such world-renowned musicians as David Liebman, Jerry Bergonzi, Bob Mintzer, George Garzone, Charlie Banacos, Michael Abene, Ludmila Uhlela and Kenny Werner. As a composer and arranger, Felipe Salles has had his arrangements and compositions performed by The Metropole Orchestra, Westchester Jazz Orchestra, Manhattan School of Music Jazz Orchestra, Manhattan School of Music Jazz Philharmonic Orchestra, New England Conservatory Jazz Orchestra, New England Conservatory Jazz Band, Five Towns College Jazz Orchestra, Five Towns College Concert Band.

Felipe Salles holds a Master of Music Degree in Jazz Studies from New England Conservatory and is the first candidate ever to graduate with a Doctoral Degree in Jazz Advancement from Manhattan School of Music. He is currently on faculty at Manhattan School of Music Precollege Jazz Division, Five Towns College, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst Department of Music and Dance.

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, Jane Monheit and most recently, with saxophonist Grace Kelly.

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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