



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 9, 2012

- WHAT:** SFJAZZ Collective
WHEN: Thursday, March 1, 7:30 P.M., 2012
WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
TICKETS: Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/>
IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/pressphotos/>

SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE BRINGS ITS TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF STEVIE WONDER TO THE FINE ARTS CENTER CONCERT HALL

On Thursday, March 1 at 7:30 P.M., the SFJAZZ Collective makes its Fine Arts Center debut with a tribute to the music of Stevie Wonder at the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall. The Collective will present the music of Stevie Wonder from their recently released album “SFJAZZ Collective: Music of Stevie Wonder and New Compositions, Live in New York 2011—Season 8,” recorded live in the intimate setting of the Jazz Standard in New York City. The set features new arrangements of the classic works of Stevie Wonder, as well as all-new original compositions by Collective members.

The SFJAZZ Collective is an all-star jazz ensemble comprising eight of the finest performer/composers at work in jazz today. Launched in 2004 by SFJAZZ—the West Coast’s largest nonprofit jazz institution and the presenter of the annual San Francisco Jazz Festival—the Collective has quickly become one of the most exciting and acclaimed groups on the American and international jazz scenes. *The New York Times* hailed the Collective upon its debut: “A serious jazz band rises in San Francisco.”

The Collective’s spring 2012 personnel feature trombonist **Robin Eubanks**, a two-time *DownBeat* “Trombonist of the Year,” trumpeter **Avishai Cohen**, and Grammy-nominated vibraphonist **Stefon Harris**. The incendiary rhythm section boasts 2010

Guggenheim Fellow **Edward Simon** on piano along with two of the most in-demand sidemen on the international scene: bassist **Matt Penman** and **Eric Harland**, winner of the *DownBeat* “#1 Rising Star Drummer” for the last three years. On tenor saxophone it’s **Mark Turner** who *JazzTimes* described as “an extremely thoughtful and cerebral player” and has recorded with the likes of Dave Holland, Brad Mehldau, and Lee Konitz. Alto saxophonist **Antonio Hart** will substitute for original SFJAZZ Collective member Miguel Zenón, who is taking paternity leave for the birth of his first child. Hart is currently a professor of Jazz Studies at Queens College City University of New York. He received a 1997 Grammy nomination for his solo on “The Community” from his Impulse! CD, “Here I Stand.”

In addition to its outstanding line-up, the SFJAZZ Collective has been praised for its innovative approach to repertoire. Each year, the ensemble performs an entirely new list of compositions by a modern jazz master and new pieces by the Collective members (commissioned by SFJAZZ). Through this pioneering approach, simultaneously honoring jazz’s recent history while championing the music’s up-to-the-minute directions, the Collective embodies SFJAZZ’s organizational commitment to jazz as a living, ever-relevant art form.

Jack Conte of the YouTube sensation Pomplamoose has directed four videos of the Collective performing Wonder’s music. The first, “Superstition,” has received over 87,000 views on YouTube since its release. A full-length documentary of the group is currently in production. “Collective Wonder,” directed by Ken Ellis, will capture the group’s creative process through interviews, rehearsals, and live performances.

Tickets for the SFJAZZ Collective are \$15, \$30, and \$35 (\$10 for Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under). Tickets are available online at www.fineartscenter.com or by calling 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS. The performance is sponsored by New England Public Radio, El Sol Latino and the UMass Amherst Alumni Association.

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