



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 25, 2013

- WHAT:** DAVE SAMUELS and THE CARIBBEAN JAZZ PROJECT
WHEN: Saturday, April 6 at 8 p.m.
WHERE: Bowker Auditorium
University of Massachusetts Amherst
TICKETS: \$30, \$15; Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under are \$10. Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/>
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JAZZ, SALSA, AFRO-CUBAN AND SOUTH AMERICAN MUSIC COME TOGETHER AT UMASS BOWKER AUDITORIUM

“A distinctly refreshing combination of sunny, sensuous and eminently danceable Latin jazz grooves.” – The Washington Post

The Dave Samuels and the Caribbean Jazz Project will bring their vibrant and unique mixture of musical influences to UMass Bowker Auditorium on Saturday, April 6 at 8 p.m. The Caribbean Jazz Project includes Dave Samuels/vibes and marimba, Oscar Feldman/alto and soprano Saxes, Vince Cherico/drums, Ruben Rodriguez/bass and Arturo Stable/percussion. They will be joined by the New York Latin All Stars for the second half of the concert. This concert is presented in conjunction with the 15th-Annual High School Jazz Fest where many of New England's most promising young jazz musicians participate in day-long performances and clinics in the Music Department. Opening Act: Be sure to come at 7:30 p.m. to hear a selected high school ensemble perform.

Founded in 1993 by Dave Samuels, this multi-Grammy Award winning ensemble combines and explores the rich musical styles from the Caribbean and South America with the improvisation and spontaneity of Jazz. The Caribbean Jazz Project remains one

of the most thoroughly inventive Latin Jazz ensembles of this or any era. They set a new standard in original improvised music based on the rich musical traditions of the Caribbean, where music from Africa, Europe and the Caribbean Islands first joined and spread its roots into North and South America. They received a Latin Grammy for their 'Afro Bop Alliance' cd and were also nominated for a Grammy in the Best Latin Jazz category for that album. Previous cds 'Here and Now- Live in Concert' and 'Birds of a Feather' were nominated for "Best Latin Jazz Recording." Their recording 'The Gathering' won the Grammy in 2003 for 'Best Latin Jazz Recording'. Some of his other recording projects include 'Remembrances', a percussion recording that features a commissioned marimba concerto for chamber orchestra and soloist composed by Jeff Beal, and 'Tjaderized - A Tribute to Cal Tjader' (Verve) that features contributions from some of Cal's former bandmates Chick Corea, Eddie Palmieri, Clare Fischer, Ray Barretto, Michael Wolff and Karl Perazzo as well as performances by Dave Valentin and David Sanchez.

Dave Samuels has established himself as the top mallet player of his generation. He is recognized for his fresh new sound and creative approach to both the vibraphone and marimba. Samuels has demonstrated his versatility and gained worldwide recognition by performing and recording with a broad scope of artists ranging from Gerry Mulligan, Oscar Peterson, Chet Baker, Stan Getz, Carla Bley and Pat Metheny to the Yellowjackets, Bruce Hornsby, Frank Zappa, The Fantasy Band and Spyro Gyra. His long time association with Gyra, which lasted from 1977 to 1994 and includes 20 recordings. During that time the Grammy-nominated group was also named # 1 Contemporary Jazz Artist and Contemporary Jazz Group of the '80s by Billboard Magazine.

In addition to his playing, Samuels is a respected educator and author and some of his new works can be found at MalletWorks.com and JazzBooks.com. Samuels has been voted "Best Vibes Player" in both *Jazziz* and *Modern Drummer* magazines and received numerous Grammy nominations.

New York Latin All- Stars includes producer/arranger John Van Eps along with vibraphonist/arranger Dave Samuels, and horn arrangements/adaptations by trumpeter and UMass Jazz faculty member Jeff Holmes. Together they brought together a potent line up of NYC musicians to record Latin versions of hit tunes resulting in "Chicago Exitos! featuring vocalist Eddie Ganz" on Chicago II Records. "NYLAS", which also includes former UMASS Jazz major/saxophonist Geoff Vidal, will perform selections from that recording at the concert.

Tickets for the Dave Samuels & the Caribbean Jazz Project at Bowker Auditorium are \$30, \$15; Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under are \$10. For tickets call the Box Office at 545-2511, toll-free at 800-999-UMAS, or purchase online at fineartscenter.com. Dave Samuels & the Caribbean Jazz Project is sponsored by New England Public Radio, Amherst Cinema, and El Sol Latino.

PHOTOS

Hi-res photos available for download: <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressRoom>.

PRESS PASSES

Limited press passes are available. Please contact Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or sfarley@admin.umass.edu.

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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