



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 21, 2014

- WHAT:** GRACE KELLY QUINTET
WHEN: Thursday, February 13, 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Bowker Auditorium
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 <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressImages>

JAZZ WUNDERKIND GRACE KELLY COMES TO UMASS' BOWKER AUDITORIUM

"Her voice is sweet and soulful, bridging the vocal traditions of jazz and pop music in an authentic, original way. Her sensitivity, control and focus as an alto saxophonist is impressive... Grace is following her heart and that path is sure to lead her on a great adventure that all listeners, lucky enough to discover her, will relish," says Ann Hampton Callaway, multiplatinum-selling singer, composer and lyricist. Grace Kelly Quintet will be performing at UMass' Bowker Auditorium on Thursday, February 13 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the 16th Annual Billy Taylor Jazz Residency. Her quintet includes Jason Palmer on trumpet, Evan Gregor on bass, Pete McCann on guitar and Ross Pederson on drums.

When it comes to singer/saxophonist/composer/lyricist/arranger/producer/educator Grace Kelly, people seem to be divided into two groups: those who marvel at her proficiency, creativity and ever-accelerating growth, and those who have yet to encounter the 21-year-old wunderkind. The ranks of the former category are growing by the day. Trumpeter and Jazz at Lincoln Center Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis was so impressed with Kelly's three-night stand as guest of the Jazz at Lincoln Center

Orchestra that he invited her to join the ensemble at the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater in Washington, D.C. for Barack Obama's Inauguration Celebration. Harry Connick, Jr. heard Kelly in a master class on a December afternoon and brought her on stage to sit in with his band that night. Since then, Kelly continued to garner accolades for her playing and singing from artists she revered, performing and recording with the likes of Dave Brubeck, Wynton Marsalis, Phil Woods, Harry Connick Jr., Jamie Cullum, Frank Morgan, Esperanza Spalding, Toots Thielemans, Hank Jones, Gloria Estefan, Questlove, Kenny Barron, Dianne Reeves, Huey Lewis, Dee Dee Bridgewater, and Terri Lynn Carrington among others.

Kelly has been voted "Best Jazz Act" in Boston four consecutive years in the FNX/Phoenix Best Music Poll, and then voted Best National Jazz Act in 2012. She has received the ASCAP Foundation's Young Jazz Composers Award in 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2013 and won "Jazz Artist of the Year" at the Boston Music Awards in both 2008 and 2010. The 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 Downbeat Critics Poll added her to the list, naming her one of the "Alto Saxophone Rising Stars," the youngest artist ever to be named to the music poll. After releasing eight full length albums, Kelly released her first single, "Sweet Sweet Baby," which has made it to #10 on the Billboard Magazine "Smooth Jazz Song Charts."

Tickets for the Grace Kelly Quintet are \$25 and \$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. The Fine Arts Center's season is sponsored by Baystate Health and Health New England, with additional event support coming from El Sol Latino, UMass Hotel and Conference Center, and NEPR 88.5FM.

PHOTOS

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

PRESS PASSES

A limited number of 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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