



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 4, 2013

- WHAT:** Herbie Hancock  
**WHEN:** Sunday, October 6, 7:30 p.m.  
**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 <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressImages>

### 2013 KENNEDY CENTER HONOR RECIPIENT AND 14-TIME GRAMMY WINNER HERBIE HANCOCK OPENS FINE ARTS CENTER'S SEASON

AMHERST, MA- This just in: The Kennedy Center just announced the recipients of the 2013 Kennedy Center Honors. Recipients to be honored at the 36th annual national celebration of the arts are: opera singer Martina Arroyo; pianist, keyboardist, bandleader and composer Herbie Hancock; pianist, singer and songwriter Billy Joel; actress Shirley MacLaine; and musician and songwriter Carlos Santana.

The Honors Gala will be recorded for broadcast on the CBS Network for the 36th consecutive year as a two-hour primetime special on Sunday, December 29 at 9:00 p.m. (ET/PT).

Pianist and composer Herbie Hancock is a true icon of modern music. With an illustrious career spanning five decades and 14 Grammy® Awards, he continues to amaze audiences across the globe. In his only New England appearance, he will open the Fine Arts Center's 2013-14 season on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. He will be joined by a quartet featuring James Genus on bass, Vinnie Colaiuta on drums and Lionel Loueke on guitar. There will be a free pre-show party for ticket-holders on the plaza starting at 6 p.m. including appetizers, live entertainment, and cash bar.

There are few artists in the music industry who have had more influence on acoustic and electronic jazz and R&B than Herbie Hancock. As the immortal Miles Davis said in his autobiography, "Herbie was the step after Bud Powell and Thelonious Monk, and I haven't heard anybody yet who has come after him."

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Hancock's music trajectory started in 1960 when he was discovered by trumpeter Donald Byrd. After two years of session work with Byrd, as well as Phil Woods and Oliver Nelson, he signed with Blue Note as a solo artist. His 1963 debut album, 'Takin' Off', was an immediate success, producing the hit "Watermelon Man."

In 1963, Miles Davis invited Herbie to join the Miles Davis Quintet. During his five years with Davis, Herbie and his colleagues Wayne Shorter (tenor sax), Ron Carter (bass), and Tony Williams (drums) recorded many classics, including 'ESP', 'Nefertiti' and 'Sorcerer'. Later on, Herbie appeared on Davis' groundbreaking 'In a Silent Way.'

Over the years since then, Hancock launched his solo career, formed the legendary band The Headhunters with its crossover hit single "Chameleon" (the first jazz album to go platinum), enjoyed 11 albums in the pop charts during the 70s, introduced Wynton Marsalis to the world, won an Oscar in 1986 for scoring the film "Round Midnight," and has worked on countless collaborations.

In 2007, Hancock recorded and released 'River: The Joni Letters', a tribute to longtime friend and collaborator Joni Mitchell featuring Wayne Shorter, guitarist Lionel Loueke, bassist Dave Holland and drummer Vinnie Colaiuta and numerous pop artists. The album received glowing reviews and was a year-end Top 10 choice for many critics. It also garnered three Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year; Herbie is one of only a handful of jazz musicians ever to receive that honor.

In 2010 Herbie released the critically-acclaimed CD, 'Herbie Hancock's The Imagine Project,' winner of two Grammy Awards. Utilizing the universal language of music to express its central themes of peace and global responsibility, the 'Imagine' project was recorded around the world and features musicians including Jeff Beck, Seal, P!nk, Dave Matthews, The Chieftains, Lionel Loueke, Anoushka Shankar, Chaka Khan, Céu, among others.

In the fifth decade of his professional life, Herbie Hancock remains where he has always been: in the forefront of world culture, technology, business and music. Though one can't track exactly where he will go next, he is sure to leave his inimitable imprint wherever he lands.

Tickets for the Herbie Hancock are \$75, \$65, and \$30; Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under are \$25, \$20, and \$15. For tickets call the Box Office at 545-2511, toll-free at 800-999-UMAS, or purchase online at [fineartscenter.com](http://fineartscenter.com). The Fine Arts Center's season is sponsored by Baystate Health and Health New England with additional event support for Herbie Hancock coming from the Daily Hampshire Gazette, the UMass Alumni Association and New England Public Radio.

## **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](mailto: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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