



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 19, 2014

- WHAT:** PAT METHENY UNITY GROUP
WHEN: Wednesday, March 26, 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>

PAT METHENY UNITY GROUP ON NATIONAL TOUR MAKES A STOP AT UMASS FAC

Last year, for the first time since 1980, guitarist [Pat Metheny](#) recorded with a band that highlighted the tenor saxophone. [Unity Band](#), which went on to win Metheny his 20th Grammy Award, featured Chris Potter on sax and bass clarinet, longtime collaborator Antonio Sanchez on drums, and Ben Williams on bass. Now, Metheny has added another musician, multi-instrumentalist Giulio Carmassi, and christened the ensemble [Pat Metheny Unity Group](#). The Group's first record, [Kin \(←→\)](#), was recently released by Nonesuch on February 4. The Unity Group is currently touring 44 cities throughout North America and will make a stop at the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Wednesday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. Ticket holders are invited to attend a pre-Concert fireside chat with UMass Music Professor and jazz guitarist Bob Ferrier at 6:30 p.m. at the University Club.

Metheny says of this new Group, "The core quartet of Chris, Ben, Antonio, and me played more than 100 concerts over the year that followed the release of our Unity Band record. Over the course of that period, the band became one of those rare combinations of players where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts; it gelled in every way, and that just seemed to beg for expansion and further research." He continues, "Simultaneously, I had been itching to write using more of a lush and orchestrated kind of concept that went beyond the sonic limits of what a straight-ahead quartet might invoke. But I really didn't want to lose the energy, focus,

and intensity of what this band had developed. I wanted to take it further. If the first Unity Band record was a thoughtful, black and white documentary of four musicians in a recording studio playing, this record is more like the Technicolor, IMAX version of what a band like this could be—but with that hardcore thing still sitting right in the middle of it all.”

Over the course of more than three decades, Metheny has set himself apart from the jazz mainstream, expanding and blurring boundaries and musical styles. His record-setting body of work includes 20 Grammy Awards in 12 separate categories; a series of influential trio recordings; award-winning solo albums; scores for hit Hollywood motion pictures; and collaborations and duets with major artists such as Ornette Coleman, Steve Reich, Charlie Haden, Brad Mehldau, and many others. His band the Pat Metheny Group, founded in 1977, is the only ensemble in history to win Grammys for seven consecutive releases.

Tickets for Pat Metheny Unity Group are \$45, \$40 and \$15; Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under are \$15, \$12 and \$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 Pioneer Valley Periodontics, the Daily Hampshire Gazette and New England Public Radio 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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