



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 26, 2014

- WHAT:** Christopher O'Riley / Matt Haimovitz: **Shuffle.Play.Listen**
- WHEN:** Monday, March 31, 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>

"Genre-bending Christopher O'Riley, modern pianistic troubadour, has clearly found a niche."
– *The Washington Post*

"Matt Haimovitz succeeded in ways that say as much about the needs of the music-loving public as his extraordinary talent."
– *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

O'RILEY AND HAIMOVITZ BRING MIX OF CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY TO THE FINE ARTS CENTER

While pianist Christopher O'Riley and cellist Matt Haimovitz are both renowned for their virtuosic and nuanced performances, it is their collaboration, [Shuffle.Play.Listen](#), that is now making waves in the musical world. It began in 2011 with a [two-CD set](#) recorded by the duo – classical pieces on the first CD, and reworked popular pieces on the second. The Billings Gazette summed it up as "sublime interpretations of classical works...followed by jaw-dropping new works massaged into magic." O'Riley and Haimovitz will work their magic together at the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall (chamber seating) on Monday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. Ticket holders are invited to attend a Pre-Concert Fireside Chat with NEPR Afternoon Classical Music host Walter Carroll at 6:30 p.m. at the University Club.

The first half of the program will be pre-arranged, and the second half will be decided from the stage, giving the artists the opportunity to share the context of the program, and

allowing the music to flow seamlessly from one genre to the next. The program as a whole showcases their talents as collaborators and soloists; the pair play classical works by the likes of Bach, Gabrielli, Piazzolla and Stravinsky, alongside popular music by Arcade Fire, Radiohead, and Blonde Redhead. What might otherwise seem a jarring combination flows seamlessly from the fingers of these gifted and acclaimed musicians.

Christopher O’Riley is well known for hosting the popular NPR music program, From the Top, and also the PBS show From the Top at Carnegie Hall, which ran for two seasons. But O’Riley first made a name for himself as one of the leading American pianists of his generation, touring extensively and appearing with every major orchestra. His renown stretched outside the classical music world when he began to release recordings of popular music reimagined for piano, including his version of Radiohead’s “True Love Waits” album, which was very positively reviewed by Rolling Stone and other major music magazines. His piano tributes to the work of Elliott Smith and Nick Drake were similarly well received, and he continues to perform both classical and popular music.

Matt Haimovitz made his debut at the age of 13 as a soloist with Zubin Mehta and the Israel Philharmonic. By age 17, he made his first recording for the German label Deutsche Grammophon, with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He has since performed on many esteemed stages with the likes of the Berlin Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. Haimovitz gained attention in 2003 for bringing his solo cello recitals to clubs around the US, UK and Canada, including a performance at New York’s infamous CBGB club which was filmed by ABC News. This is a homecoming for Haimovitz, who served as a faculty member in the UMass Amherst Music Department from 1993-2004. His fresh take on familiar repertoire as well as more current pop music has brought many new listeners to the world of classical music.

Tickets for Shuffle.Play.Listen are \$40, \$30 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 Applewood, NEPR 88.5, UMass Hotel and Preview Magazine.

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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