



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 30, 2014

WHAT: Angélique Kidjo

WHEN: Thursday, October 30, 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, Chamber Seating
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>

ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO BRINGS HER INFECTIOUS MUSIC AND ACTIVIST ENERGY TO THE UMASS FINE ARTS CENTER CONCERT HALL

Beninese Afro-pop spitfire Angélique Kidjo is a Grammy award-winning recording artist deemed "Africa's premier diva" by Time Magazine. She'll be bringing her uplifting and electrically charged music to the UMass Fine Art's Center Concert Hall on Thursday, October 30th at 7 :30 p.m. Audience members are invited to a pre-performance talk by Bode Omojola, Five College Associate Professor of Music, Mount Holyoke College, 6:30 p.m. at the University Club.

The night before the concert, on the 29th, there will be a conversation with Kidjo moderated by Professor Bode Omojola from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. in Bowker Auditorium. Kidjo will discuss the importance of her advocacy work and the role her music has played in advancing social causes. For years, Kidjo has been a humanitarian advocate affiliated with groups such as UNICEF, and her primary focus these days is on the women of Africa, particularly on creating a new perspective on African women that counters the widespread stereotype of poverty and misery.

As a performer, her striking voice, stage presence and fluency in multiple cultures and languages have won respect from her peers and expanded her following across national borders. Kidjo has cross-pollinated the West African traditions of her childhood in Benin with

elements of American R&B, funk and jazz, as well as influences from Europe and Latin America. She'll be backed by an equally powerful band: Dominic James, guitar; Magatte Sow, percussion; Ben Zwerin, bass and Yayo Serka, drums.

Kidjo is a creative force with twelve albums to her name. The BBC has included her in its list of the continent's 50 most iconic figures, and in 2011 *The Guardian* listed her as one of their Top 100 Most Inspiring Women in the World. *Forbes* magazine has ranked Kidjo as the first woman in their list of the Most Powerful Celebrities in Africa. She has recorded with many of the greatest names in popular music including Branford Marsalis, Carlos Santana, Bono, Dianne Reeves, Peter Gabriel and Alicia Keys.

In January 2014 Angélique's first book, a memoir titled *Spirit Rising: My Life, My Music* (Harper Collins), and her twelfth album, *EVE* (Savoy/429 Records), were released to critical acclaim.

Tickets for Angelique Kidjo are \$35, \$30, \$20; Five College, GCC and 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 Coca Cola, Rainbow Times, 93.9 The River, and Hotel UMass. This concert is also funded in part by the Expeditions program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support from the six New England state arts agencies.

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CALENDAR LISTING

UMass Fine Arts Center presents

ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO

Thursday, October 30, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, Chamber Seating

Beninese Afro-pop spitfire Angélique Kidjo is a Grammy award-winning recording artist deemed "Africa's premier diva" by Time Magazine. Known for her dynamic and uplifting music, she has translated her distinctive work in the arts to that of a women's rights activist, and travels the world to inspire and empower. Audience members are invited to a pre-performance talk at 6:30 p.m. at the University Club. Also *Activism through Music*, a free conversation with Angélique Kidjo moderated by Bode Omojola, Wednesday, October 29, 6–7 p.m., Bowker Auditorium. \$35, \$30, \$20; Five College, GCC and 17 & under \$10

Tickets: Call 413-545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS or online at www.fineartscenter.com
Visit www.fineartscenter.com for 2014-15 Season details, directions, and more.

High-resolution photos are available at <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressImages>

