



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 19, 2014

WHAT: Pink Martini

WHEN: Saturday, September 20, 8 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>

Multilingual, Retro-hip Pink Martini Opens UMass Fine Arts Center's 2014-15 Season

“United Nations meets Breakfast at Tiffany’s.”

Hailing from Portland, Oregon, baroque-pop, classical, and jazz group Pink Martini has played to adoring audiences around the world, and will make its Fine Arts Center debut on Saturday, September 20 at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale now. Prior to the concert, the FAC invites ticket-holders to celebrate the opening of its season with a free dessert party on the plaza with live entertainment and a cash bar featuring the signature cocktail, you guessed it, a pink martini.

This 12-member "little orchestra" draws inspiration from pounding Cuban beats and the heart-wrenching tunes of smoky Paris nightclubs. It is an unpredictable ensemble that joins a variety of musical styles and performs "music of the world without being world music," consistently mixing melodies and rhythms from around the world to create something fresh and new.

In describing his band, Lauderdale remarked, "(We) draw inspiration from the romantic Hollywood musicals of the 1940s or '50s with a more global perspective. We write a lot of songs but we also champion songs like Ernesto Lecuona's 'Andalucia' or 'Amado Mio' from the Rita Hayworth film 'Gilda,' or 'Kikuchiyo to mohshimasu (My name is Kikuchiyo)' made famous in the 1960s by the great Japanese group Hiroshi Wada & His Mahina Stars. In that sense we're a bit like musical archeologists, digging through recordings and scores of years past and rediscovering beautiful songs."

Fifteen years ago in his hometown of Portland, OR, Thomas Lauderdale was working in politics, thinking that one day he would run for mayor. Like other eager politicians-in-training, he went to every political fundraiser under the sun, but was dismayed to find the music at these events underwhelming, lackluster, loud, and un-neighborly. Drawing inspiration from music from all over the world – crossing genres of classical, jazz and old-fashioned pop – and hoping to appeal to conservatives and liberals alike, he founded Pink Martini in 1994 to provide more beautiful and inclusive political fundraiser soundtracks for progressive causes such as civil rights, affordable housing, the environment, public broadcasting, and education. Since then Pink Martini has released five international gold-selling albums and has performed in major concert halls around the world.

China Forbes (Pink Martini's "Diva Next Door" lead vocalist) met Lauderdale at Harvard. He was studying history and literature while she was studying English literature and painting. Actually neither of them really studied. They socialized. Late at night, they would break into the lower common room in their college dorm and sing arias by Puccini and Verdi, and the occasional campy Barbra Streisand cover. This sealed their creative collaboration. Three years after graduating, Lauderdale called Forbes who was living in New York City where she'd been writing songs and playing guitar in her own folk/rock project, and asked her to join Pink Martini.

Pink Martini made its European debut at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997 and its orchestral debut with the Oregon Symphony in 1998 under the direction of Norman Leyden. Since then, they've played with more than 50 orchestras across the globe, including multiple engagements with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Boston Pops, and the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center among others. Pink Martini's debut album *Sympathique* was released independently in 1997 and quickly became an international phenomenon, garnering the group nominations for "Song of the Year" and "Best New Artist" in France's Victoires de la Musique Awards in 2000. Pink Martini released *Hang on Little Tomato* in 2004, *Hey Eugene!* in 2007 and *Splendor In The Grass* in 2009. In November 2010 the band released *Joy to the World* — a festive, multi-denominational holiday album featuring songs from around the globe. In

September of 2013, they released *Get Happy*, featuring the last recording of Phyllis Diller on "Smile." Pink Martini's albums have gone gold in France, Canada, Greece and Turkey, and have sold well over 2.5 million copies worldwide.

Tickets for Pink Martini are \$55, \$50, \$25; Five College, GCC and 17 and under \$20, \$15, \$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 NEPR 88.5, UMass Catering, Hotel UMass, the Valley Advocate and 93.9 The River.

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CALENDAR LISTING

UMass Fine Arts Center presents

PINK MARTINI

Saturday, September 20, 2014 at 8 p.m.

Free Dessert Party for ticket-holders on the Plaza at 6:30 p.m.

Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

Tickets: \$55, \$50, \$25; Five College GCC and 17 and under \$20, \$15, \$10

"This is rich, hugely approachable music, utterly cosmopolitan yet utterly unpretentious." - *The Washington Post*

PINK MARTINI will open the UMass Fine Arts Center's 2014-15 season with an inimitable, multilingual repertoire performed by its renowned 12-piece orchestra and the breathtaking vocals of China Forbes. PINK MARTINI will wow the FAC audience with a retrospective of songs from "Sympathique," "Get Happy," "Dream a Little Dream" and more.

The Portland-based orchestra was founded in 1994 and has since achieved great success selling more than three million copies of their eight albums showcasing their unique style of crossing musical genres such as classical, jazz and old-fashioned pop.

Visit www.fineartscenter.com for 2014-15 Season details, directions, and more.

High-resolution photos are available at www.fineratscenter.com/pressroom