



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 10, 2014

WHAT: Regina Carter's Southern Comfort

WHEN: Thursday, October 9, 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Bowker Auditorium, Stockbridge 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>

JAZZ VIOLINIST REGINA CARTER BRINGS HISTORIC SOUTHERN JAZZ TO THE UMASS FINE ARTS CENTER

"A talented, charismatic player who is almost single-handedly reviving interest in the violin as a jazz instrument." – *Los Angeles Times*

Violin virtuoso Regina Carter is considered the foremost jazz violinist of her generation, with a huge discography of impressive and critically acclaimed work. Her latest release is 2014's *Southern Comfort*, a musical and historical exploration of her family's roots in Alabama. Carter will perform *Southern Comfort* at Bowker Auditorium on Thursday, October 9, at 7:30 p.m. She'll be joined by Will Holshouser on accordion, Marvin Sewell on guitar, Jess Murphy on bass, and Alvester Garnett on drums.

Southern Comfort is Carter's heavily researched and beautifully recorded tribute to the music of her grandfather's time and place; he toiled as a coalminer in rural Alabama. What originally began as a family investigation eventually expanded to include a blend of folk songs

and spirituals, presented through Carter's modern and sophisticated lens. According to Carter, "This disc was to pay homage to my family, but it turned out to be so much more."

Carter spent many hours digging deep into the historic collections of folklorists, identifying field recordings from Appalachia that she connected with. Carter explains, "I had maybe 50 tunes that I felt strongly about, and I finally forced myself to work more on those to stop myself from collecting more." Those 50 tunes eventually became the 11 tracks on *Southern Comfort*. The material ranges from Cajun fiddle music, early gospel and coal miner's work songs, to more contemporary re-imaginings.

Carter began studying piano at the age of two, before taking up the violin. In 1987 she joined the all-female pop-jazz quintet *Straight Ahead*, and recorded three albums before leaving the band in 1991. She worked as a session musician with artists including Aretha Franklin, Lauryn Hill, Mary J. Blige, Billy Joel, Dolly Parton, Max Roach and Oliver Lake. She released solo albums in 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2000.

In December 2001, she traveled to Genoa, Italy, and made musical history by being the first jazz musician and the first African American to play the legendary Guarneri Del Gesu violin, made in 1743 and owned by classical music virtuoso and composer Niccolò Paganini. This encounter inspired her 2003 album, *Paganini: After a Dream*, which featured works by Ravel and Debussy. In 2006 she received the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship (the famed 'genius grant').

Tickets for Regina Carter's *Southern Comfort* are \$30, \$15; Five College, GCC and 17 and under \$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, Hotel UMass, El Sol Latino, WEIB 106.3FM. 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
REGINA CARTER'S SOUTHERN COMFORT
Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.
Bowker Auditorium, UMass Amherst
Tickets: \$30, \$15; Five College GCC and 17 and under \$10

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Regina Carter is a knockout violinist who creates music that is “wonderfully listenable, probingly intelligent, and, at times, breathtakingly daring...taking the listener into the future of jazz” (Time Magazine). Carter’s Southern Comfort program will uncover the songs and music from her father’s home state of Alabama, celebrating the joyous music that infused her childhood.

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

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