



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 12, 2015

- WHAT:** WARREN WOLF AND WOLFPACK
- WHEN:** Thursday, February 5th, 7:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Bowker Auditorium
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>

Multi-instrumental talent Warren Wolf brings his quartet, the Wolfpack, to Bowker Auditorium on Thursday, February 5th as part of the 17th Annual Billy Taylor Jazz Residency. Wolf will play the vibraphone and marimbas while his quartet features Alex Brown on piano and Fender Rhodes, Kris Funn on bass and Billy Williams on drums. Wolf has also honed his chops on drums and piano and is following in the footsteps of vibes masters Bobby Hutcherson and Stefon Harris by becoming a member of the SFJazz Collective (both of whom precede him in the vibes chair).

Wolf attended Peabody Preparatory for eight years, studying classical music with former Baltimore Symphony Orchestra member Leo LePage. After graduating from Baltimore School for the Arts in June of 1997, Wolf headed north and enrolled at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. During his time at Berklee, he studied with Caribbean jazz vibraphonist Dave Samuels for seven of eight semesters. While at Berklee, Wolf became an active performer around the Boston area, gigging frequently on the vibraphone, drums and piano. One of the highlights of Wolf's stay in Boston was co-leading a quintet with Boston-based trumpeter Jason Palmer at the historic jazz club Wally's Cafe. Wolf was the house drummer at Wally's for two years, performing every Friday and Saturday.

After graduating in May of 2001, Wolf became an active musician on the Boston local scene. Wolf was hired in September 2003 to become an instructor in the percussion department

at Berklee College of Music. He taught private lessons on the vibraphone and drums, and taught a beginner keyboard class for entering freshmen drumset majors.

Wolf has several recordings as a leader. His first two records, *Incredible Jazz Vibes* and *Black Wolf*, were released on the M&I label, based in Japan. Wolf also has a self-produced CD titled "RAW," on which he performs on both the vibraphone and drums. He performs on the vibraphone, drums, Fender Rhodes and piano on his fourth recording, *Warren "Chano Pozo" Wolf*. He signed with Mack Avenue and produced his first album on the label in 2011.

On this eponymous album, produced by mentor/label-mate Christian McBride (who Wolf has been performing with since 2007 after the pair met at Jazz Aspen seven years before that), Wolf placed himself in the context of a quintet and sextet (with saxophonist Tim Green and, on two tracks, trumpeter Jeremy Pelt).

For *Wolfgang*, his sophomore release for Mack Avenue, Wolf focused on the quartet setting. "I wanted to display the beauty of the vibes," he explains. "In a quintet, you're limited. With a quartet, you can hear me more. A lot of times the vibes is played in support of others. I'm showing here that I can hold the ball by myself." Comprised of nine tunes (of which six are originals), *Wolfgang* spotlights Wolf taking a different, more laid-back route than his volcanic debut album on Mack Avenue. "The last record was a means of introducing myself as a leader," says the vibraphonist. "This time I set out to showcase my writing skills with compositions that have melodies people can remember." A smart, fun, blues-to-swing-to-classical collection of indelible melodies, *Wolfgang* ups the ante in Wolf's young career.

Tickets for Warren Wolf and Wolfpack are \$25 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 UMass Hotel and Conference Center, NEPR 88.5FM and WEIB 106.3 Smooth FM.

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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.

CALENDAR LISTING

UMass Fine Arts Center presents
Billy Taylor Jazz Residency Artist

WARREN WOLF & WOLFPACK

Thursday, February 5, 7:30 p.m., Bowker Auditorium

A multi-instrumental talent, Warren Wolf has an impressive background playing the vibraphone, marimba, drums and piano. He has performed with some of the best in the business, including Wynton Marsalis, Nicholas Payton and Christian McBride. His CD *Wolfgang*, released on Mack Avenue Records in 2013, prompted a *JazzTimes* review that stated, "Warren Wolf appears to be on a path to stardom as arguably the most exciting bop vibraphonist since Bobby Hutcherson." Catch this rising young talent in the jazz genre.

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Season Sponsors: Baystate Health/Health New England. Event Sponsors: 88.5 NEPR, Hotel UMass and WEIB 106.3FM