



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 20, 2015

WHAT: [The Ambrose Akinmusire Quartet](#)

WHEN: Thursday, November 19, 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Bowker Auditorium, UMass Amherst

TICKETS: Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or buy online at www.fineartscenter.com/

IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressImages>

AWARD-WINNING TRUMPETER AMBROSE AKINMUSIRE BRINGS QUARTET TO BOWKER AUDITORIUM

“With a chameleonic tone that can sigh, flutter or soar, Akinmusire sounds less like rising star than one that was already at great heights and just waiting to be discovered.”

– *Los Angeles Times*

Composer and trumpeter [Ambrose Akinmusire](#) is usually busy collecting prestigious awards from jazz festivals around the globe. He'll take some time to bring his all-star quartet to UMass Amherst, performing at Bowker Auditorium on Thursday, November 19th at 7:30 p.m. *The New Yorker* calls Akinmusire “a thrilling trumpeter and astute bandleader [with a] unique spark in his playing.” He is fast moving to the front ranks of progressive jazzmen, earning both the Doris Duke Impact Award and the Doris Duke Artist Award in the past two years.

Appearing as part of the FAC's Billy Taylor Jazz Residency, Akinmusire will also be an artist in residence in the area for the week of his performance. This will include teaching masterclasses at local high schools and colleges. In addition, Akinmusire will sit in with the Northampton Jazz Workshop as a special guest artist on Tuesday, November 17 at City Sports Grille (525 Main Street, Northampton). The session is free and open to the public.

Akinmusire's talented quartet includes pianist Sam Harris, bassist Harish Raghavan, and drummer Justin Brown. As a close-knit group of longtime friends and frequent collaborators, these skilled young musicians also performed on Akinmusire's most recent album, *The Imagined Savior is Far Easier To Paint*. The album has been highly praised, landing at number 3 on NPR Music's Jazz Critics' Poll for 2014.

Ambrose Akinmusire cut his jazz teeth playing professionally while still in high school. He caught the attention of saxophonist Steve Coleman and was asked to join Coleman's Five Elements, embarking on a European tour when he was just a 19-year-old student at the Manhattan School of Music. After returning to the West Coast to pursue a master's degree at the University of Southern California, Akinmusire went on to attend the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz in Los Angeles, where he studied with Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter and Terence Blanchard.

In 2007 Akinmusire won the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition, decided by a panel of judges that included Blanchard, Quincy Jones, Herb Alpert, Hugh Masekela, Clark Terry and Roy Hargrove. That year Akinmusire also won the Carmine Caruso International Jazz Trumpet Solo Competition and released his debut album *Prelude... To Cora* on the Fresh Sound label. Akinmusire's Blue Note debut *When the Heart Emerges Glistening* was released in 2011 to rave reviews. Since his most recent album in 2014, Akinmusire has continued to gain recognition, not only in the jazz world but also in the international arts landscape in general. He won the Paul Acket Award in 2014, awarded by the North Sea Jazz Festival annually in recognition of extraordinary musicianship.

Tickets for the Ambrose Akinmusire Quartet are \$25 and \$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. This event is sponsored by Hotel UMass and WEIB.

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PHOTOS

Hi-res photos are available at www.fineartscenter.com/pressroom

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:

THE AMBROSE AKINMUSIRE QUARTET

Billy Taylor Jazz Residency Artist

Thursday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m., Bowker Auditorium

Composer and trumpeter Ambrose Akinmusire (pronounced ah-kin-MOO-sir-ee) cut his jazz teeth playing professionally while still in high school. Inspired by legendary saxophonists Joe Henderson and Steve Coleman, he won the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition and released his first album in 2007. Called "a thrilling trumpeter and astute bandleader [with a] unique spark in his playing" (*The New Yorker*), Akinmusire has moved to the front ranks of progressive jazzmen, leading his quartet and contributing his burnished tone to projects with the OSSO String Quartet and vocalists Becca Stevens and Theo Bleckmann.

\$25, \$15; Five College, GCC and 17 & under \$10

Event Sponsors: Hotel UMass, WEIB