



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 26, 2015

WHAT: The Hot Sardines

WHEN: Saturday, September 26, 8 p.m.

WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, UMass Amherst

TICKETS: Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 or online

at www.fineartscenter.com

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

NYC's BEST TRAD JAZZ BAND OPENS THE FINE ARTS CENTER'S 40th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

“Old-time jazz with new-time energy and style...magic on stage. There is no other band playing live quite like The Hot Sardines.” – WFUV

Take the hot jazz and sultry standards from the 1920s, '30s and '40s, sprinkle in the rich Dixieland sounds of New Orleans, add a dash of wartime Paris flavor and you have the Hot Sardines, named “one of the best jazz bands in New York today” by *Forbes Magazine*. Fans of Pink Martini and the Squirrel Nut Zippers will love this band as well. The Fine Arts Center opens its 40th anniversary season with this straight-up, foot-stomping jazz on Saturday, September 26 at 8 p.m. Ticket-holders are also invited to a “Speakeasy” pre-show party in the lobby, from 6:30 p.m., with period dress encouraged.

Fronted by Parisian singer Miz Elizabeth, and led by bandleader Evan “Bibs” Palazzo, the Hot Sardines play prohibition era jazz, but infuse it with modern energy and their own unique style. The combination has proved irresistible, taking them from coffee shop gigs to headlining Lincoln Center’s Midsummer Night Swing, in just a few years. The Hot Sardines specialize in the music of the first half of the 20th century, but in a way that brings new life to older jazz traditions. “This music isn’t historical artifact,” explains Palazzo. “It’s a living, breathing, always evolving thing.”

The band was born when Elizabeth met stride piano player Palazzo at a Craigslist

jam session. After discovering their mutual love for jazz standards of the '20s, '30s and '40s, they began playing together; with Elizabeth a self-taught washboard player and multilingual singer (she writes and sings in both French and English). The band expanded to include a tap dancer (an essential part of their percussion section), drummer, upright bass player, and a blustery brass section as well.

The Hot Sardines have sold out 15 straight shows during their residency at New York's famed Joe's Pub, and showcased their versatility by performing to eager audiences at venues as diverse as the ultra-swank Top of the Standard (Boom Boom Room), the internationally-known Montreal Jazz Festival, the underground speakeasy Shanghai Mermaid, and Symphony Hall in Boston, where they performed to sold out audiences in collaboration with the Boston Pops.

Tickets for the Hot Sardines are \$40 for all seats (reserved seating); Five College, GCC and 17 and under \$15. 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 the Valley Advocate, UMass Catering, Hotel UMass, 93.9 The River and the UMass Alumni Association.

40th Anniversary Season Celebration

The Fine Arts Center's 40th anniversary season showcases a huge range of music, dance and theater, including the return of audience favorites Pilobolus, TAO drummers, Dianne Reeves, and the famed Broadway show STOMP. The FAC is also bringing newcomers and innovators to the stage, such as jazz trumpeter Ambrose Akinmusire and renowned South African choreographer Dada Masilo, whose reinvented *Swan Lake* combines Tchaikovsky's ballet (tutus and pointe shoes intact) with high-energy pantsula and gumboot from her home country.

To bring the 40th celebration out into the community, the FAC is hosting several free events around the Valley, including dance performances in Easthampton and Brattleboro, classical music in Northampton, Hadley and Amherst, and artist talks in Holyoke and Northampton. The season culminates in a free Community Fest event for the whole family, on the FAC plaza on May 1st. This event will feature local musicians, dancers and thespians, as well as arts & crafts, games, activities, and food trucks.

The FAC offers a wide range of ticket prices starting at \$10. Youth, Five College and GCC student tickets range from \$5 to \$30. Of course, there is also the create-your-own subscription package by choosing three or more events, with savings of 15 percent off the adult regular ticket price (price range A & B.) Price range C tickets remain at the affordable price of \$15-\$20.

The FAC is once again partnering with select area restaurants and hotels for some great discounts called the Artful Palate and Pillow. Single ticket buyers receive a discount on the nights of performances. Subscribers receive discounts on any night, not just performance nights, throughout the FAC season. Subscribers could end up

saving anywhere from 25% to 35% on an evening out. Visit www.fineartscenter.com/artfulpalate for details and links to participating hotels and restaurants.

In addition to the performances, the FAC continues to offer opportunities that provide a deeper understanding of the art and culture through creative dialogues, workshops, pre-concert talks, artist interviews, escorted trips, and film.

The FAC also hosts two galleries and a museum, too. [Augusta Savage Gallery](#), [Hampden Gallery](#), and the [University Museum of Contemporary Art](#) offer contemporary art exhibits by campus, local and internationally renowned artists in all media. Visit www.fineartscenter.com for more information.

For a [complete listing](#) of the season, call the box office for a brochure or visit the [Fine Arts Center's website](#), where you can find video of the artists, links to the artists' web and social sites, and visitor info. Subscriptions and single tickets are on sale now by calling 413- 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS, or by visiting our secure website at www.fineartscenter.com. For smart phone users, the FAC also has a mobile site.

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

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