

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 6, 2016

- WHAT:** UMass Fine Arts Center Presents
the Marcus Roberts Trio
- WHEN:** Thursday, November 3, 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:** Images are attached; they are also available at
<https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressImages>

MARCUS ROBERTS TRIO AT THE UMASS FINE ARTS CENTER

On Thursday, November 3, at 7:30 p.m., the Marcus Roberts Trio brings its unique brand of jazz to Bowker Auditorium at UMass Amherst. Pianist par excellence Marcus Roberts and equally talented musicians Rodney Jordan on bass and Jason Marsalis on drums will perform jazz standards and original compositions. Founded in New Orleans in 1995, the Marcus Roberts Trio is known for its virtuosity and original approach. While most jazz trios have the piano front and center, the members of this trio share equally in shaping the music, changing the tempo, mood, and texture with imagination and lightning-quick reflexes.

Roberts grew up listening to his gospel-singer mother and church music. He taught himself to play piano after losing his sight at age five. An accomplished composer and Florida State University faculty member, Roberts has made numerous recordings and performed with symphony orchestras, including those conducted by long-time friend and mentor Seiji Ozawa. Rodney Jordan, who joined the trio in 2009, is considered one of the most accomplished jazz bassists on the scene today. Jason Marsalis, youngest son of pianist and music educator Ellis Marsalis, has been touring with the trio since he was 17 years old.

Ted Panken of *Jazziz Magazine* said of Roberts, "In the course of a single piece, he constantly modulates grooves, tempos, and keys; plays separate time signatures with the right hand and the left; and, as Roberts puts it, 'flips around the roles of the piano, bass, and drums by giving everyone an equal opportunity to develop the concepts and themes, to change the form, to get us where we're getting ready to go.'"

Tickets for the Marcus Roberts Trio are \$35 and \$20; Five College student and youth (17-and-under) tickets are \$10. For tickets call the box office at 545-2511 (toll-free: 800-999-UMAS) or online at fineartscenter.com. This event is sponsored by Hotel UMass.

The FAC and select area restaurants offer great discounts through our Artful Palate & Pillow program (“Pillow” discounts for hotel accommodations). 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. Details and links to participating hotels and restaurants at www.fineartscenter.com/artfulpalate.

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