



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 13, 2012

**WHAT:** Ravi Coltrane Quartet  
**WHEN:** Friday, April 13, 8:00 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 <http://www.fineartscenter.com/pressphotos/>

#### GRAMMY-WINNING SAXOPHONIST RAVI COLTRANE AND HIS QUARTET CLOSE THE FAC'S JOY OF SAX SERIES AT BOWKER AUDITORIUM

*"One of the things to admire about the saxophonist Ravi Coltrane is the slow, methodical way he built his career. In his quartet's sound lies an index of contemporary jazz in New York, making sense of great stylistic swaths."*

- Ben Ratliff, The New York Times

Ravi Coltrane is a critically acclaimed saxophonist, bandleader, composer, producer and founder of the independent record company, RKM Music. Since 1991, Mr. Coltrane has diligently forged a prominent career as a live performer. On Friday, April 13 at 8:00 P.M., Ravi Coltrane brings his acclaimed quartet to Bowker Auditorium for a performance that will close the Fine Arts Center's year-long Joy of Sax series. Prior to the performance, at 7:15 P.M. in Bowker Auditorium, ticket-holders are invited to a pre-show talk by New England Public Radio's longtime Jazz à la Mode host, Tom Reney.

The Ravi Coltrane Quartet's performances are stunning sets of musically diverse, rhythmically eclectic pieces featuring his longtime bandmates—pianist Luis Perdomo, bassist Drew Gress and drummer E.J. Strickland. Together they project fluid, spontaneous improvisations as well as more structured compositions organized around a jazz quartet's

familiar group dialogue. In consideration of his august legacy, Coltrane's performances suggest a point of convergence between the past and the present.

One of the keys to the ongoing transmission of this musical vision is the strength of Ravi's ensemble as embodied in the quality of interaction between Coltrane and his bandmates. "We've moved forward together in our musical communication," he says. "These guys are all such incredible collaborators. I've really been fortunate in this regard."

Born in Long Island, New York in 1965, the second son of John and Alice Coltrane, Ravi was named after Indian sitar legend Ravi Shankar. Shortly thereafter the family moved to Los Angeles, where Ravi first began developing his own personal interest in the arts. As young man, he initially began playing clarinet and switched to saxophone in high school.

In 1991, his father's renowned drummer, Elvin Jones, saw in Ravi an emergent authentic performer, and hired the youthful saxophonist to play with his band. After his tenure with Elvin, Ravi found himself working alongside a list of names that reads like a Who's Who of American Jazz and Pop. The roster included: McCoy Tyner, Pharoah Sanders, Carlos Santana, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, John McLaughlin, Michael Brecker, George Duke, Stanley Clarke, Jeff "Tain" Watts, and Branford Marsalis.

"I want to be involved with music that is truly honest—that's not trying to follow trends or fit into someone's idea about what jazz is," Coltrane says. "To me, I'm only trying to be a musician, and we honor the legacies of those who have gone before by just playing and doing our own thing. If our generation simply copycats the greats of the past, that's not real. It's important to be authentic and make music that means something now. It's exciting to be on the journey."

In anticipation of Coltrane's visit to UMass, on Monday, April 9 at 7:00 P.M., Reney will host the year's final installment of the Joy of Sax Film Series at the Amherst Cinema, with a screening of the 1959 production, *Jazz on a Summer's Day*—an intimate look at the 1958 Newport Jazz Festival. Tickets to the April 9 showing are available at the Amherst Cinema box office, 413-253-2547 or online at <http://www.amherstcinema.org/>.

Tickets for the Ravi Coltrane Quartet at Bowker Auditorium on April 13 are \$15 and \$30 (\$10 for Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under). Tickets are available online at <http://www.fineartscenter.com/> or by calling 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS. The performance is sponsored by United Wealth Management, Baystate Health, New England Public Radio, the UMass Hotel, and the Amherst Cinema and Pleasant Street Theater.

A limited number of press passes are available to credentialed reporters by contacting Shawn Farley, Director of Marketing, at 413-545-4159 or [sfarley@admin.umass.edu](mailto:sfarley@admin.umass.edu).

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