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**THE 2011 SOLOS & DUOS SERIES PRESENTS:**

**Joshua Abrams' Natural Information Society**

The Solos & Duos Series, produced by the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, continues its 10th season with a concert by Joshua Abrams' Natural Information Society on **Wednesday, October 26**, in **Bezanson Recital Hall** at **8:15pm**.

Bassist and composer Joshua Abrams has been in the thick of Chicago's vibrant music scene for 15 years, playing and recording as leader and sideman in projects across a wide number of genres. He co-founded the minimalist band Town & Country, and with Matana Roberts and Chad Taylor, the trio Sticks & Stones. He has released four records under his own name, and appeared on over 50 recordings by Fred Anderson, Hamid Drake & Bindu, Nicole Mitchell and Ernest Dawkins. He is a founding member of The Roots.

At the heart of *Natural Information*, his 2010 Eremite release, is the guimbri, a three-stringed animal hide bass traditionally used by the Gnawa of North Africa in healing ceremonies. Abrams creates intricate psychedelic environments that join the hypnotic, trance-like character of Gnawa music to more contemporary music and methodologies. *Brown Rice*-era Don Cherry, Sandy Bull's "blend" recordings and Can's "magic" albums are appropriate historical reference points.

“Joshua Abrams has delivered one of the rough gems of the post-everything musical era in *Natural Information*,” writes Ben Ratliff in the New York Times. In *The Wire*, Brian Morton called the record, “quietly evanescent, scattered with sudden breathtaking glimpses, and insistently uplifting.”

Abrams scored the music for *The Interrupters*, the new film by Steve James and Alex Kotlowitz (*Hoop Dreams*), which premiered this year at the Sundance Film Festival.

Tickets are still only \$10 and \$5 (students), and are available through the FAC box office, 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS. Join us Dec. 2 to see Wadada Leo Smith/Günther “Baby” Sommer Duo, live on the UMass campus.

*The Solos & Duos Series is produced by the UMass Fine Arts Center. Thanks to the UMass Hotel at the Campus Center. Amherst College and WMUA, 91.1FM*



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