

UMassAmherst

Fine Arts Center

**Zaccai Curtis Afro Cuban Jazz Quartet**  
**Saturday, March 27, 7 p.m. ET**  
**Virtual Concert with Q & A**



**ZACCAI CURTIS, Piano;**

**Luques Curtis, Bass; Willie Martinez, Timbales; Camilo Molina, Congas**

Zaccai Curtis is presented in conjunction with the UMass Music Department High School Jazz Festival

*UMass Amherst occupies the traditional land of the Nonotuck tribe. We recognize our neighboring Indigenous nations: the Nipmuc and the Wampanoag to the East, the Mohegan and Pequot to the South, the Mohican to the West, and the Abenaki to the North. We further acknowledge through language courtesy of Groundwater Arts, that YouTube, the platform used for this event, is headquartered in what is now called San Bruno, CA on the traditional lands of the Ohlone, Muwekma, and Ramaytush peoples. We acknowledge the lands YouTube resides on as the digital platform does not exist in an ether or an imaginary void, but is made possible because of physical land and the Indigenous people who steward it.*

Thanks to our performing arts Spring Season sponsor, Coca Cola, and our media sponsors, The Daily Hampshire Gazette and El Sol Latino.



## **PROGRAM**

- 1) Cuban Fantasy by Ray Bryant**
- 2) Woody N You by Dizzy Gillespie**
- 3) Salt Peanuts by Dizzy Gillespie**
- 4) 13th Constellation by Zaccai Curtis**
- 5) Someday my Prince Will Come by Churchill/ Morey**

## **NORO MORALES SUITE**

- 6) Oye Men by Noro Morales**
- 7) Stromboli by Noro Morales**
- 8) Rumbambola by Noro Morales**
- 9) Let's Do It Again by Zaccai Curtis**



The UMass Fine Arts Center is supported by the New England Foundation for the Arts through the New England Arts Resilience Fund, part of the United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund, an initiative of the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with major funding from the federal CARES Act from the National Endowment for the Arts.

## ABOUT ZACCAI CURTIS

After graduating from New England Conservatory in 2005, **Zaccai Curtis** moved to New York City. He performs regularly with artists such as: Donald Harrison, Cindy Blackman Santana, Eddie Palmieri, Christian Scott, Ralph Peterson, T.K. Blue, Brian Lynch, Ray Vega, and Eric Person. Curtis composes and arranges for his own quartet, trio, and big band. In 2003-2006, Curtis was the winner of the ASCAP Young Jazz Composer's competition. Twice in 2006 Zaccai and his quartet were selected by the U.S. State Department to be in the American Music Abroad (Jazz Ambassadors) program. The group performed in Bangladesh, Calcutta, Bangalore, Mumbai, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. In 2007, Zaccai Curtis was awarded the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism's Artist Fellowship for "original composition," And in 2017 Curtis became a Chamber Music America's New Jazz Works grant recipient. Zaccai currently performs his own with his group, Curtis Brothers Quartet, and recently released his new album, *Syzygy* (2017), after three successful releases: *A Genesis*, *Blood Spirit Land Water Freedom*, and *Completion of Proof*. Zaccai, along with his brothers Luques, has developed a recording collective, TRRcollective, of musicians that produce music on their own terms. He is proud to have been a producer for the GRAMMY nominated album, *Entre Colegas* (2016), released on the label, Truth Revolution Records/TRRcollective. This year, Zaccai created the first ever music news app developed for a record label, The Riff: Music News, available on iTunes and Android.

**Luques Curtis** (Bass) studied at the Greater Hartford Academy of Performing Arts and earned a full scholarship to Berklee College of Music in Boston. There he studied with John Lockwood and Ron Mahdi. Luques was also a recipient of the prestigious Bunche Fellowship to attend the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. Now living in the New York area, Curtis has been performing worldwide with Eddie Palmieri, Brian Lynch, Ralph Peterson, Christian Scott, Sean Jones, Orrin Evans, Stefon Harris, and others. He is the recent recipient of the 2016 DownBeat Rising Star Bassist on the Critics Poll. He is the Co-owner of Truth Revolution Records.

**Willie Martinez** (Timbales) is a sought after drummer on the Latin scene, and also a prolific arranger and composer. He can often be found leading La Familia Sextet and the outstanding Willie Martinez Quartet.

**Camilo Molina** (Congas) is an accomplished percussionist from New York City. In the fall of 2000, Camilo had the honor of being selected as one of ten semifinalists to compete in the Thelonious Monk International Afro-Latin Hand Drum Competition. He went on to become a finalist and was selected as the third place winner, who, at age ten was the youngest finalist in the 14-year history of the competition.

## Upcoming Events:

### Miwa Matreyek: *Ininitely Yours*

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 7:00 p.m. ET, [Tickets](#) \$10 per household or device



*Ininitely Yours* is an emotionally impactful, embodied illustration of news headlines we see every day, and the complex harm humanity causes to the world – and what it might mean for all of us; humanity, as well as other life, and the earth itself – to be living in this changing world.

### Leonardo & Sam: *the Terrible Monster and the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World, Respectively*

Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. ET, [Tickets](#) \$12 per household or device  
A Manual Cinema Monster Movie



Inspired by the beloved children's books by Mo Willems, and realized through mind-bending projection, DIY cinema, music, and immersive sound by critically-acclaimed multimedia artists Manual Cinema, Leonardo & Sam tells the story of a monster who longs to be scary and the big decisions about identity and empathy that we all must make.

For more information about these and all UMass Fine Arts Center Events and to get your ticketing link please visit:

[fineartscenter.com](https://fineartscenter.com)