

# MASS MoCA

For Immediate Release  
Contact: Katherine Myers  
(413) 664-4481 x8113  
katherine@massmoca.org

## Vermont-based Grace Potter and the Nocturnals bring Bluesy Rock to MASS MoCA

(North Adams, Massachusetts)

Bonnie Raitt described Vermont-based rockers Grace Potter and the Nocturnals as “one of the most soulful new bands around.” Spin Magazine says, “confrontational and unafraid, [the band’s] sultry, sometimes bluesy pop has garnered appreciation from hard rockers and



ballad-lovers alike.” The band’s ever-increasing and vehemently devoted fan base got its first taste of the group on the jam band circuit opening for big-name acts like The Black Crowes and Dave Matthews. Led by vocalist, keyboardist, and guitarist Grace Potter, the group has spent the last year finishing production on its third full-length album and introducing their fans to two new band members on a national tour, which they will continue in 2010, including a performance at MASS MoCA on Thursday, March 11, in the Hunter Center at 8 PM. The concert at MASS MoCA is made possible in part by the Hans & Kate Morris Fund for New Music.

Potter describes herself as a natural performer. In an interview with the Bangor Daily News she explained, “there’s like this little engine inside me that wants to be in front of people, and wants to connect. It doesn’t matter if I’m in a living room with two people, or in a 20,000-seat arena – it’s the same switch I flip.” That entertainer instinct started when Potter was a child taking piano lessons from her mom and trying to outperform her mother’s other students. In her early teens she began reciting poetry at the piano she’d written in English classes, gradually working the words

into a song. Potter explains, "I started thinking of poetry and music in the same vein... it felt exactly like what music should be."

Potter and drummer Matt Burr met as undergraduates at St. Lawrence University in upstate New York. Burr convinced Potter that her voice and songwriting abilities were strong enough to carry a band, which led to the creation of Grace Potter and the Nocturnals. The group stuck to its independent roots for several years, declining big record deals in order to control its musical direction. After releasing two self-produced albums and building its fan base through relentless touring, they eventually signed with Hollywood Records and in 2006 won a Jammy award for the re-release of their album *Nothing but the Water*. They are currently in the final production stages on their third album set for a Spring 2010 release.

The five-piece line-up, which includes guitarist Scott Tournet, bassist Catherine Popper, and guitarist Benny Yurco, along with Potter and Burr, promises their followers not just intoxicating songs but also renowned live shows. In an interview with MyNorthwest.com Potter remarked, "If you go online and listen to us you're going to get one version of us; that's the studio version of us. Our live experience is very different and at the same time, you know, we're playing the same songs but it's really about that visceral kind of in-the-moment feeling of being able to stand in front of a band and watch them do what they do. And it really allows us to stretch out and be more personal with the audience... being on stage is more of an art."

The concert is sponsored by the Hans & Kate Morris Fund for New Music.

Tickets for Grace Potter and the Nocturnals on Thursday, March 11, are \$18 in advance/ \$22 day of show. MASS MoCA members receive a 10% discount. Tickets are available through the MASS MoCA Box Office located off Marshall Street in North Adams, open from 11 AM until 5 PM, closed Tuesdays. Tickets can also be charged by phone by calling 413.662.2111 during Box Office hours or purchased on line at [www.massmoca.org](http://www.massmoca.org).

MASS MoCA, the largest center for contemporary visual and performing arts in the United States, is located off Marshall Street in North Adams on a 13-acre campus of renovated 19<sup>th</sup>-century factory buildings. MASS MoCA is an independent 501c(3) whose operations and programming are funded through admissions and commercial lease revenue, corporate and foundation grants, and individual philanthropy. Except for an initial construction grant from the Commonwealth, and competitive

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program and operations grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, MASS MoCA is privately funded: 90% of annual operating revenues are from earned revenues, membership support, and private gifts and grants.