

MASS MoCA

NEWS RELEASE

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Zammuto: with Special Guest Performer Gotye

Australian pop sensation added to bill

Breaking: Gotye, whose 2011 hit, "Somebody that I Used to Know," propelled him to international fame, will join Zammuto, Nick Zammuto of the Books eponymous band, as a special guest performer. Nick Wouter Andre "Wally" De Backer, better known by his stage name, Gotye (a pronunciation respelling of "Gautier", the French cognate of Gotye's given Dutch name "Wouter"), has been riding high since the release of his international hit, "Somebody that I Used to Know." He's won three Grammys, is the first Australian to reach #1 on the U.S. Billboard charts since 2000, and has been continuing to make music and tour worldwide. While on tour in the U.S. in 2012, De Backer's bandmate, Tim Shiels, took him to a Zammuto show. De Backer was taken with the band, and a bond formed between our hometown indie-pop experimentalists and the rising Aussie star. They now tour together and support each other's acts routinely. Zammuto's latest album, *Anchor*, was the first release of De Backer and Shiels's freshly founded record label, *Spirit Level*. Now, Zammuto brings Gotye to our Hunter Center as a special guest performer on Saturday, March 21 at 8pm.



North Adams, Massachusetts — From his days as a founding member of luminary art rockers the Books to his equally arresting and madcap work as a solo artist, the imagination of Nick Zammuto is boundless. He recently built a giant catapult in his Vermont backyard for the purpose of flinging computers and guitars. When he visits the Hunter Center with his eponymous ensemble, Zammuto,

it's hard to know for sure what will happen - but it's safe to say you should show up. **Zammuto** performs in MASS MoCA's Hunter Center on **Saturday, March 21**, at **8pm**.

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The Books disbanded in 2012, but fortunately for critics and fans far and wide, that wasn't the last we heard of intellectual eccentric and local favorite Nick Zammuto. Distraught Books fans craving a cerebral, zany musical fix found solace in Zammuto's thoughtfully-formed four-piece eponymous band, whose distinctive sound fully retains the madcap, spirited, and home-spun vibes that earned the Books a devoted following. A structural departure from the conceptual, expertly-assembled mishmash of audio and visual samples that defined the Books, Zammuto's sound favors a far more cohesive and conventional style, bolstered by impeccable musicianship that incorporates keyboard, vocals, and strings – still accompanied by self-styled auteur video shows.

As a group, Zammuto continues to evolve, throwing curveballs at their audience with each new release, and earning diverse comparisons from critics, which span from The Postal Service to Phoenix to Dirty Projectors to Andrew Bird. In concert, captivated crowds move to the band's energetic sets of experimental, electronic rock played against projected backgrounds of charmingly whacky video footage, a Books-era practice that lives on in Zammuto. Often more instrumental than vocal, Zammuto's inventive lyrics explore universal concerns spanning from family and happiness to the stress of chronic back pain. During performances, the group often takes a break from performing their own music to treat audiences to facetious musical skits, covers from the likes of Paul Simon, and more.

Nick Zammuto's journey as a professional musician began in New York City in 1999 when he and cellist Paul de Jong formed the Books. The Books released four critically-acclaimed studio albums before disbanding. Nick Zammuto has released two solo albums, 2000's *Willscher* and *Solutiore Of Stareau* in 2001. In 2012, he released his first album with his four-piece group, titled *Zammuto*. The group followed up in 2014 with *Anchor*. The band currently consists of Nick Zammuto on guitar, vocals and keyboard; his brother Mikey Zammuto on bass; Sean Dixon on drums; and Nick Oddy on electric guitar and bass. A Massachusetts native and graduate of Williams College, Nick Zammuto lives in rural Vermont with his wife and three young children. When the band isn't on tour, he records in a converted tractor garage.

Zammuto performs in our Hunter Center on **Saturday, March 21**, at **8pm**. Dinner and snacks are available from Lickety Split before and during the show. A full bar serves Berkshire Brewing Company beers and Berkshire Mountain Distillery spirits. Tickets are \$8 for students, \$18 in advance, and \$24

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day of. Tickets for all events are available through the MASS MoCA box office located on Marshall Street in North Adams, open 11 am - 5pm Wednesdays through Mondays; closed Tuesdays through spring 2015. Tickets can also be charged by phone by calling 413.662.2111 during box office hours or purchased online at massmoca.org. All events are held rain or shine.

Sponsorship

This performance is sponsored by the Porches Inn at MASS MoCA.

About MASS MoCA

MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest (and largest) centers for making and enjoying today's most important art, music, dance, theater, film, and video. Hundreds of works of visual and performing art have been created on its 19th-century factory campus during fabrication and rehearsal residencies, making MASS MoCA among the most productive sites in the country for the creation and presentation of new art. More platform than box, MASS MoCA strives to bring to its audiences art experiences that are fresh, engaging, and transformative.

MASS MoCA's galleries are open 11 am to 5pm every day except Tuesdays. The Hall Art Foundation's Anselm Kiefer exhibition is open seasonally beginning Spring 2015. Gallery admission is \$18 for adults, \$16 for veterans and seniors, \$12 for students, \$8 for children 6 to 16, and free for children 5 and under. Members are admitted free year-round. For additional information, call 413.662.2111 x1 or visit massmoca.org.

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