



## **Brattleboro Museum & Art Center**

10 Vernon Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

[www.brattleboromuseum.org](http://www.brattleboromuseum.org)

802-257-0124

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2009

Contact Danny Lichtenfeld

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

Phone: 802-257-0124, ext. 108

### **Sam Amidon and Shahzad Ismaily to Perform at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center**

*Brattleboro, Vt.*—As the next installment in its “After Hours” series, the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center is pleased to present a live performance by native son Sam Amidon and his musical partner Shahzad Ismaily, this Friday night, June 19, 8-11 p.m. In addition to three hours of great music, there will be snacks and a cash bar, set against the backdrop of BMAC’s current exhibitions. Admission to the Friday night event is \$3 (\$2 for BMAC members).

Born and raised in Brattleboro, the 28-year-old Sam Amidon is the son of traditional folk musicians Peter and Mary Alice Amidon. He is now based in New York City but tours the U.S. and abroad on a near-constant basis. His recent CD, “All is Well,” has been called “sky-scrapingly great” by Stylus Magazine. Amidon says, “As a child, all I knew was traditional folk. I spent holidays at folk festivals, and my friends were all children of folk musicians. If I couldn’t sleep at night, my dad would take me for a walk and sing me murder ballads. That’s perhaps not the best parenting technique, but I adored the stories.” Aoife O’Donovan, a fiddle player with the Boston-based folk revivalists Crooked Still says, “Sam’s treatment of those old songs is incredible. He inhabits the characters in the stories and captures their emotions, but the music feels fresh.”

Amidon and Shahzad Ismaily are frequent collaborators. Born to Pakistani immigrants and the recipient of a master's degree in biochemistry from Arizona State University, Ismaily has performed with such artists as Laurie Anderson, Lou Reed, Tom Waits, John Zorn, David Krakauer, Rage Against the Machine, and many more. According to Amidon, Ismaily "plays all the instruments." For their performance in Brattleboro, the duo are planning to play songs from "All is Well" and Amidon's earlier CD, "But this Chicken Proved Falsehearted," interwoven with extended improvisation.

The June 19 performance is the fourth installment in a series of occasional "after hours" events at BMAC, when the museum stays open late and provides music, snacks, and a cash bar. "Exhibits, entertainment, and edibles," said BMAC Director Danny Lichtenfeld. "We think it's a good recipe for getting people in the doors and, at the same time, enhancing the cultural nightlife of downtown Brattleboro."

Major support for the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center's 2009-2010 season is provided by BMAC members and Entergy Vermont Yankee, Foard Panel, C&S Wholesale Grocers, Sam's Outdoor Outfitters, and Chittenden Bank. The Museum's exhibits and gift shop are open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Tuesday and Wednesday. Regular admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for students. Members and children 5 and under are admitted free of charge.

Founded in 1972, the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center presents art and ideas in ways that inspire, educate, and engage people of all ages. Each season features compelling new exhibits of contemporary artwork by regional and internationally acclaimed artists, complemented by lectures, artist talks, film screenings, and other public programs. Located in historic Union Station in downtown Brattleboro, at the intersection of Main Street (Route 5) and Routes 119 and 142, the Museum is wheelchair accessible. For more information call 802-257-0124 or visit [www.brattleboromuseum.org](http://www.brattleboromuseum.org).

# # #