ABOUT FRANK ZAPPA

Most people know Frank Zappa as the great creative iconoclast rocker. The genius of Zappa extends to the crossover realm of modern classical avant-garde music. He was a big fan of Stravinsky, Varese, Boulez and Nicholas Slonimsky. Zappa’s classical music was performed by the London Symphony, Ensemble Moderne, Ensemble InterContemporary and many other classical groups. His classical albums include The Yellow Shark, London Symphony Orchestra Vol. 1 & 2, Boulez Conducts Zappa: The Perfect Stranger and over sixteen other classical recordings. Zappa’s classical “greatest hits” include: Dog-Breath Variations, Strictly Genteel, The Girl in the Magnesium Dress, Jonskown for Chamber Ensemble, Naval Aviation in Art? for Chamber Ensemble, Bob in Dacron for Orchestra, Moe ‘n Herb’s Vacation and many more.

“The present-day composer refuses to die...” Edgard Varèse – Frank Zappa. Zappa was also known for fighting censorship, making speeches before the U.S. Congress. For more information there are 2,480,000 entries under “Frank Zappa” on Google.

ABOUT CHARLES DOWD

A New York native, Charles Dowd is principal timpanist with the Eugene Symphony, Oregon Bach Festival (Grammy winner), and four other orchestras. For 30 seasons, he was principal timpanist of the Cabrillo Festival (Santa Cruz), winner of 18 ASCAP awards. Dowd has performed as percussion soloist in nearly every U.S. state and performs in France, Germany, Canada and Mexico. He has recorded with RCA Studios Studio “A” (New York), Hanßler (Germany), Black Saint (Italy), PAUSA, MusicMasters, Warner Bros., Soundspells/Albany NY, and others. Pianist Cory Lerios and drummer Charles Dowd formed the band “Together” which was the seminal core of the San Francisco rock band Pablo Cruise. Dowd plays vibraphone, marimba, drums, multipercussion, timpani, Afro-Brazilian-Cuban percussion, and conducts The Oregon Percussion Ensemble. He is professor of percussion at the University of Oregon.

UPCOMING CONCERTS by 
THE OREGON PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Monday, Nov. 28, 2005 • 8 p.m. Beall Concert Hall, UO campus
Monday, March 6, 2006 • 8 p.m. Beall Concert Hall, UO campus
Monday, May 15, 2006 • 8 p.m. Beall Concert Hall, UO campus

Info: (541)346-5678

IONISATION for Thirteen Percussionists
(Paris, France, November 13, 1931)  Edgard Varèse
THE BLACK PAGE DRUM SOLO (1977)  Frank Zappa
THE BLACK PAGE #1 “The Hard Version” (1977)
THE BLACK PAGE #2 “Easey Teenage NY Version” (1977)
For thirty-two seasons, The Oregon Percussion Ensemble has performed and championed the classical percussion chamber music of John Cage, Meyer Kupferman, Lou Harrison, Edgard Varese, Frank Zappa, Steve Reich, Iannis Xenakis, William Kraft, Edison Denisov and many other modern masters.

The Oregon Percussion Ensemble records on the Soundspells/Albany, NY record label and has been nominated for the Laurel Leaf Award by the American Composers Alliance in New York City “for distinguished achievement in fostering and encouraging American Music.”

Broadcast performance include WGBH Boston “The Art of the States” heard in 40 countries worldwide, on NPR (National Public Radio), APR (American Public Radio) and on network television.

The Oregon Percussion Ensemble has been featured twice at Percussive Arts Society International Conventions (PASIC) and the group has performed on tour in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Jose, Seattle, Boise, Palo Alto, Spokane, Portland and throughout Washington, California, Idaho and Oregon.

Members of The Oregon Percussion Ensemble have trained at The Juilliard School, Eastman, New England Conservatory, Manhattan School of Music, Peabody, Paris Conservatory, USC School of Music, Indiana University-Bloomington, University of Illinois, San Francisco Conservatory, San Francisco, and San Jose State Universities, to name a few.

Former percussionists from The Oregon Percussion Ensemble perform in the Eugene Symphony Orchestra, in recording studios and concert halls throughout the U.S.A. and in Europe, Mexico and Canada.