Compositions will be announced from the stage.

ABOUT TONIGHT’S ARTISTS

The jazz keyboard percussion duo recently released the CD titled “SNAPSHOT LIVE! Jazz Vibraphone & Marimba Duo, CHARLES DOWD Vibraphone/TRACY FREEZE Marimba” on cdmUSA records 105-1 (manufactured by SONY). The duo explores improvisation. Original works make up the bulk of the current music explored by Dowd and Freeze, but the duo continues to draw inspiration from four other jazz duos: Gary Burton & Chick Corea, Bobby Hutcherson & McCoy Tyner, David Friedman & Dave Samuels and Mike Mainieri & Warren Barnhardt. Both Dowd and Freeze are “mallet players” performing some of the premier classical compositions written for solo vibraphone and marimba. For their jazz work, the duo finds inspiration from master jazz mallet improvisers Milt Jackson, Cal Tjader, Bobby Hutcherson, Gary Burton, David Friedman, Dave Samuels and many other newer, mallet players who are emerging. The jazz collaborations of Dowd and Freeze bring an original voice to this new and unique genre of the acoustic vibraphone/marimba combination. Currently, a new CD is in preparation, following recent performances in Mexico.

The improvisations of vibraphonist Charles Dowd are born from his recording with avant-garde iconoclast Anthony Braxton, and other “outside” performances with Vinnie Golia and Andrew Hill. Dowd’s jazz also draws upon his drumming with Bobby Hutcherson, David Friedman, Leroy Vinegar, Pablo Cruise (Cory Lerios), and Don Ellis to name just a few. Dowd also plays and conducts the music of Meyer Kupferman, Frank Zappa and John Cage, and is a champion of many 20th and 21st century avant-garde composers. Dowd is a Philip H. Knight professor of music at the University of Oregon School of Music. (Dowd is) “...virtuosic” ... The New York Times.

The improvisations of marimbist Tracy Freeze stem from the 20th and 21st century tradition of “classical improvisation” with the music of Meyer Kupferman, William Kraft, Richard Kvistad (Blackearth Percussion Group) and Zappa-esque compositions. Freeze is also an experienced performer and interpreter of the mallet keyboard works of David Friedman & Dave Samuels (Double Image) and the styles of composers Julie Spencer, Mattias Schmitt, Jacob Druckman, John Corigliano, Hans Werner Henze and Ney Rosauro. Freeze is a professor of music at Emporia State University in Kansas. “The best live jazz I have ever heard!”... Luis Alberto, AM Guanajuato newspaper, Mexico.

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106th Season, 54th program