

THE OREGON PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Professor Charles Dowd, Music Director and Conductor

The Oregon Percussion Ensemble is a consortium of percussionists specializing in the performance of modern classical percussion chamber music. In 1996 The Oregon Percussion Ensemble and Charles Dowd were nominated for the Laurel Leaf Award of the American Composers Alliance in New York City for distinguished achievement in fostering and encouraging American music. Now in its 29th season, the group is known for its performances of the music of Frank Zappa, John Cage, Lou Harrison, Edgard Varese, Steve Reich, Iannis Xenakis, Edison Denisov, Meyer Kupferman, William Kraft and for premieres of cutting edge, avant-garde composers. Broadcast performances include WGBH Boston's "The Art of the States," heard in 40 countries, and an NPR national broadcast of a Dowd composition for Gamelan Suranadi Sari Indra Putra. Past performances include Percussive Arts Society International Conventions in Los Angeles and San Jose (by competitive audition), a 1992 John Cage memorial, a 1992 Lou Harrison 75th birthday tribute in Portland, Seattle, and Portland Percussion Festivals, and the 1984 International Society for Music Education at Silva Hall. The group has had touring performances in Palo Alto, San Jose, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boise, Spokane, Seattle, Ellensburg, Portland, and throughout the Northwest. All members of the ensemble are graduate or undergraduate percussionists majoring in music at the University of Oregon. Ensemble alumni hold graduate degrees from Juilliard, Eastman, Peabody, New England Conservatory, Manhattan, and USC, and perform in opera houses and recording studios in the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

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OREGON PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE PERSONNEL

2002-2003 SEASON

Charles Dowd, music director & conductor

Micah Brusse	Adam Kehl *
Dave Constantine *	Brenda Lauffenberger *
Maeghan Culver	Chris Lay
Melissa Davis *	Mark Lighthiser *
Erica Drake	Tom Mulkey
Tony Fowler	Arielle Olson
Tracy Freeze, principal *	Bryan Schuster
Brian Gardiner *	Alex Singer
Anna Hathaway	Luciano Valle-Torres
Josh Hakanson	W. Sean Wagoner, special guest *
Aaron Jester	Chris Whyte, ensemble logistics *

** performing this evening*

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103rd Season, 157th program

Beall Concert Hall
8:00 p.m.

Monday evening
June 2, 2003

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

presents

***THE AVANT-GARDE:
A MEYER KUPFERMAN
PERCUSSION TRIBUTE***

featuring

***OREGON PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
Charles Dowd, music director & conductor***

with

***Tracy Freeze, marimba
Sean Wagoner, timpani***

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PROGRAM

Prometheus (1975) Meyer Kupferman
for percussion ensemble (b. 1926)
Sean Wagoner, timpani

Rain Tree (1981) Toru Takemitsu
for three percussion players (b. 1930)

Moonsticks (1986) Meyer Kupferman
for solo marimba (b. 1926)
Tracy Freeze, marimba

BRIEF PAUSE

Sound Phantoms No.5 (1980) Meyer Kupferman
for percussion orchestra

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ABOUT TONIGHT'S ARTISTS

Tracy Freeze, solo marimbist and percussionist, is a freelance musician in Eugene, Oregon. He performs regularly with the Eugene Symphony Orchestra, the Oregon Festival of American Music, and the Oregon Mozart Players. He is an active solo recitalist, specializing in contemporary and avant-garde marimba and multi-percussion repertoire, including such composers as Meyer Kupferman, Andrew Thomas, Steven Mackey, Eric Ewazen, Barney Childs, Reginald Brindle-Smith, and Julie Spencer. A native of Reno, Nevada, he has performed regularly with the Nevada Festival Ballet, Nevada Opera, Reno Chamber Orchestra, and the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra. He has appeared as a guest soloist with the Reno Chamber Orchestra, Reno Pops Orchestra, and the University of Nevada Percussion Ensemble. Freeze is currently the principal soloist with the award-winning Oregon Percussion Ensemble and principal timpanist with the University of Oregon Symphony Orchestra. As a graduate teaching fellow in percussion at the University, he is pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in percussion performance under the tutelage of Professor Charles Dowd. Freeze received first place in the 1998 University of Oregon Concerto Competition, and in 1995 placed third in the Reno Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition. He holds two master's degrees from the University of Oregon in the areas of percussion performance and wind ensemble conducting, and a Bachelor of Music degree in music education from the University of Nevada, Reno.



Meyer Kupferman is a modern avant-garde American composer of international renown, and is unusually prolific. Kupferman has composed 12 symphonies, 7 operas, 7 string quartets, 10 concertos, and hundreds of chamber works, including spectacular solo and ensemble pieces for virtuoso musicians. Kupferman, who resides in New York, has had grants and fellowships from Guggenheim, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Library of Congress, US State Department, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, and the Aaron Copland Fund.

The **Oregon Percussion Ensemble**, which specializes in avant-garde music, appears on Kupferman's New York *Soundspells* record label in a commercial CD *Moonmusic 2000* featuring soprano Ann Tedards, and is preparing to release *Percussion Symphony*. Tonight, we record *Sound Phantoms No. 5*, *Prometheus* and *Moonsticks* for future release on Kupferman's *Soundspells* label.

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If you are in the company of a small child or someone who may inadvertently cause distractions, kindly sit near a rear exit and be prepared to leave in a timely fashion. Please respect our artists and your fellow concert goers. House management reserves the right to request exiting the Hall when appropriate.