

*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 27th 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.

*SCHOOL OF MUSIC COMING EVENTS*

*For more information on any of these events, or to be on the UO Music mailing list, call the music school's Community Relations Office, weekdays, at 346-5678. To listen to a taped message of the week's coming events, call 485-2000, ext. 2533.*

**Sunday, March 17 • 6 p.m., Beall Hall**  
**UNIVERSITY GOSPEL CHOIR &**  
**GOSPEL ENSEMBLE**  
*UO Ensembles; \$5, \$3*

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102nd Season, 68th program

Room 198  
2:00 p.m.

Sunday afternoon  
March 17, 2002

**UNIVERSITY OF OREGON**

**SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

**VANGUARD SERIES**

presents

**A WILLIAM KRAFT**  
**PERCUSSION SPECTACULAR**

**CHARLES DOWD PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**  
*with members of the*  
**OREGON PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**  
*Charles Dowd, conductor & music director*

featuring

*William Kraft, composer-in-residence*  
*Steven Dunn, trumpet*  
*W. Sean Wagoner, multiple percussion*  
*Tracy Freeze, multiple percussion*

PROGRAM

**Quartet for Percussion** (1988) William Kraft  
I. *Spectral Dance*  
II. *Mists*  
III. *Mistral*  
(b. 1923)

**Encounters III** (1971) William Kraft  
duel for trumpet and percussion  
1. *Strategy*  
2. *Truce Of God*  
3. *Tactics*

Steven Dunn, trumpet  
W. Sean Wagoner, multiple percussion

**Theme and Variations** (1956) William Kraft  
for percussion quartet  
*Theme*  
*Variation I "The Conventional Four"*  
*Variation II "The Idiophones"*  
*Variation III "The Membranophones"*  
*Variation IV "The Pitched Instruments and Finale"*

INTERMISSION

**Suite for Percussion** (c. 1963) William Kraft  
for percussion quartet  
I. *Fanfare*  
II. *Andante*  
III. *Ostinatos*  
IV. *Toccata*  
V. *Cadenze*

**Encounters VI** (1976) William Kraft  
concertino for toto toms and percussion quartet  
Tracy Freeze, multiple percussion

**Momentum** (1966) William Kraft  
for eight percussionists

**Charles Dowd** has performed throughout the U.S.A. and in Germany, Canada and France. He has played in Carnegie Hall, RCA Studio "A" New York, Wilhelma Theatre Stuttgart, and with the Juilliard Orchestra, NSOA National Symphony New York, San Francisco Symphony and many others. For thirty years he was principal Timpanist with the Cabrillo Music Festival Orchestra in Santa Cruz which won the ASCAP award for adventuresome programming of contemporary music for 18 consecutive years. Dowd is principal timpanist with the Grammy winning Oregon Bach Festival, and a Philip H. Knight Professor of Percussion at the U. of O.

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*Please respect our artists and your fellow concert goers.  
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. House management reserves the  
right to request exiting the Hall when appropriate.*

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THE CHARLES DOWD PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE  
2001-2002 SEASON  
W. Sean Wagoner, co-principal percussion<sup>#</sup>  
Tracy Freeze, co-principal percussion<sup>#</sup>

Micah Brusse*	Adam Kehl*
Dave Constantine*	Brenda Lauffenberger*
Melissa Davis	Mark Lighthiser*
Erica Drake	Rory McKee
Tony Fowler	Tom Mulkey
Brian Gardiner* <sup>#</sup>	Sean Rainey*
Carrie Jahde	Chris Whyte*
Aaron Jester	

\* members of the Charles Dowd Percussion Ensemble

<sup>#</sup> soloists

## ABOUT TONIGHT'S ARTISTS

William Kraft studied composition with Luening, Ussachevsky, Beeson, Brant, and Cowell at Columbia University, and was a pupil of Morris Goldenberg (percussion) and Saul Goodman (timpani). Kraft's intimate knowledge of the timbre and texture of percussion ensembles exerts a complex influence on both the conception and the realization of his compositions, while his relationship with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, which have resulted in several commissions, lends a Haydnesque perspective to his creativity. Kraft's efforts have been concentrated in large-scale works, most for orchestra and percussion. His principal publishers are Theodore Presser, New Music West, Western International Music and Belwin-Mills.

— *Excerpt by David Cope, THE NEW GROVE DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN MUSIC 1986*

I have been playing Kraft since 1966 (for 36 years). He is the Beethoven, Mozart and Bach of modern percussion music.

— *Charles Dowd, timpani & percussion soloist and conductor*

**Steven Dunn** has performed trumpet with the Denver Brass, Aries Brass Quintet, Utah and Phoenix Symphonies, Eugene Symphony, Oregon Festival of American Music, and is a member of the Oregon Brass Quintet and the Dunn/Pennington Percussion Duo. Dunn has played across the USA and in Germany, at Arizona State, University of North Texas, Northwestern University, Yale, Freiburg, Germany, Music in the Mountains festival, and in Denver and Durango, CO. Dr. Dunn is on the faculty teaching theory and playing trumpet at the University of Oregon School of Music.

**W. Sean Wagoner** is co-principal solo percussionist with The Charles Dowd Percussion Ensemble, principal timpanist of the Oregon Mozart Players, principal percussionist of the Eugene Opera Orchestra and is a member of the Eugene Symphony percussion section. He performs as a freelance percussionist with the Oregon Symphony, Oregon Bach Festival and Oregon Festival of American Music. His recording credits include the Grammy sinning Hannsler recording of the Penderecki *Credo* (Oregon Bach Festival), Xenaxis *Persephassa* (broadcast worldwide on WGBH), and several others.

**Tracy Freeze** is co-principal solo percussionist with The Charles Dowd Percussion Ensemble and has performed with the Reno Philharmonic, Reno Chamber Orchestra and University of Nevada ensembles. He performs regularly with the Oregon Festival of American Music, Eugene Symphony, Oregon Mozart Players, Oregon Bach Festival, and conducts the Hundreth Monkey Ensemble, University of Oregon Percussion Ensemble and choirs at Lane Community College. He has performed as an award winning concerto soloist in Nevada and Oregon and is finishing a DMA in percussion at the U. of O.

**William Kraft** leads two musical lives, both of them productive and successful. As a master performer of the entire range of percussion, from the roar of the kettledrums to the ping of the triangle, he is acknowledged a world-class virtuoso. As a composer with a slight and forgivable bias toward bringing his favorite instruments into his music, he has produced a voluminous and much-admired legacy. Kraft was born in Chicago (1923), educated in Southern California and later at Columbia University. In 1949 Kraft enrolled as a composition student at Columbia, at a time most propitious for someone seized with the unorthodox ambition of becoming a serious composer for percussion. "John Cage and Henry Cowell were around, and they saw nothing wrong with composing for any combination you could think of. I remember, we played Lou Harrison's *Canticle No.3*, a work for percussion, at one concert. The student who was supposed to play the apple-box couldn't cut the rhythms, so John (Cage) took over. I really liked that piece of Lou's. It was a big influence on my whole career." By 1955 Kraft had returned to California, as percussionist and assistant conductor with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, while squeezing out time to compose. "Sure, it's hard to write your own music when you spend all your time playing other people's work. I arranged my life so that I played with the Philharmonic for their season, then took a few weeks off to compose, then had to get back in harness for the Hollywood Bowl season. But then Zubin Mehta came up with a commission for a piece for the orchestra (*Contextures*), and I had no choice but to run my two lives simultaneously."

— *Alan Rich, Music Critic, LA Weekly. Excerpt from liner notes from WILLIAM KRAFT Harmonia Mundi, France 907106*

William Kraft has had a distinguished career as a composer, conductor, timpanist and percussionist. In his long association with the Los Angeles Philharmonic he functioned as a percussionist (1955-1962), timpanist (1962-1981), and frequent conductor of contemporary concerts. From 1981 to 1985, he served as Composer in Residence and Founding Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic New Music Group. Among his numerous awards are the American Academy of Arts and Letters, two Guggenheim Fellowships, and two Kennedy Center Friedheim Awards (1<sup>st</sup> prize 1991, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize 1984). Commissions and grants include the Library of Congress, Ford and Rockefeller Foundations, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and many others. Currently he is chairman of the composition department and holds the Corwin Chair at the University of California Santa Barbara. His works have been performed throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

— *Excerpt from liner notes from PERCUSSION BY WILLIAM KRAFT Crystal Records CD124*