

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 30th season, the group is known for its performances of the music of Frank Zappa, John Cage, Lou Harrison, Edgard Varèse, 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 concert halls and recording studios in the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

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OREGON PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE PERSONNEL

2003-2004 SEASON

Professor Charles Dowd, music director & conductor

Dr. W. Sean Wagoner, assistant conductor

Melissa Davis
Erica Drake
Tony Fowler
Charlie Forkish
Brian Gardiner
Josh Hakanson
Anna Hathaway
Horace Hsu
Colin Jenkins
Aaron Jester

Kelly Johnson
Jon Koenig
Chris Lay
Mark Lighthiser
Tom Mulkey
Bryan Schuster
Alex Singer
Brenda Trowbridge
Chris Whyte

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104th Season, 71st program



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON • SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Beall Concert Hall
8:00 p.m.

Monday evening
March 8, 2004

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

presents

THE OREGON PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Charles Dowd, Music Director & Conductor

“ZONES”

featuring

Brian Gardiner, marimba



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

PROGRAM

- Ku-Ka-Ilimoku** (1978) Christopher Rouse
for four percussionists (b. 1949)
- Intrusions** (1974-1986) John Serry
for ten percussionists (b. 1954)
- Reflections on the Nature of Water** (1986) Jakob Druckman
for solo marimba (b. 1928)
Crystalline
Gently Swelling
Brian Gardiner, marimba

BRIEF PAUSE FOR SET CHANGE

- Zones** (1991) (West Coast USA premiere) Jennifer Higdon
for percussion quintet and CD (b. 1962)
- African Welcome Piece** (1971) Michael Udow
orchestrated by C. Dowd (b. 1949)

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ABOUT TONIGHT'S ARTISTS

A native New Yorker, **Charles Dowd** is principal timpanist of the Eugene Symphony, Oregon Bach Festival, Cascade Festival of Music, Oregon Festival of American Music, Oregon Coast Music Festival and substitute principal timpanist of the Oregon Symphony in Portland. For thirty years Dowd was principal timpanist of the Cabrillo Music Festival in Santa Cruz, which won 18 consecutive ASCAP awards under Dennis Russell Davies and Marin Alsop. Dowd performs throughout the USA, in France, Germany and in Canada. He has performed in Carnegie Hall, RCA Studios New York, and with the Juilliard Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and many others. Dowd records on MusicMasters, Warner Bros., Black Saint/Soul Note, PAUSA, Hanssler Germany, cdmUSA, Columbia, and KM Los Angeles record labels, and has written seven books on percussion performance, sold worldwide. His musical training includes DMA residency work with Saul Goodman at the Juilliard School, a master's degree at Stanford and a bachelor's degree from San Jose State University, both with Anthony J. Cirone of the San Francisco Symphony. Dowd is a Philip H. Knight Professor of Music at the University of Oregon School of Music and conductor/music

director of the Oregon Percussion Ensemble, specializing in the premieres of avant-garde works for modern percussion chamber ensemble.

Portland percussionist **Brian Gardiner** earned the M.M. (with honors) in percussion performance and the B.M. (with honors) in percussion performance from the University of Oregon School of Music and is currently doing post-masters graduate work. In 2003, Gardiner was a co-winner of the UO Concerto Competition performing the Milhaud *Concerto for Marimba* with the UO Symphony. Gardiner performs at the Hult Center with the Oregon Mozart Players, Oregon Festival of American Music and the Eugene Symphony, and teaches at the American Music Institute at The Shedd and at Thurstonb High School. He is co-principal timpanist of the UO Symphony, and a core principal percussionist with the Oregon Percussion Ensemble.

Jennifer Higdon is active as a freelance composer. Born in Brooklyn in 1962, she grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, and Seymour, Tennessee, and now resides in Philadelphia. She has received awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Academy of Arts & Letters, the Pew Fellowship in the Arts, the International League of Women Composers, Composers Inc. (the Lee Ettelson Prize), National Endowment for the Arts, Meet-the-Composer, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Higdon's orchestral work *Shine* was named best contemporary piece of 1996 by *USA Today* in their year-end classical picks. In 2003, her *Piano Trio* was awarded Ithaca College's Heckscher Prize. Recent and upcoming commissions include works for the Cypress String Quartet, the Ying Quartet, eighth blackbird, the Gilmore Piano Festival, the Philadelphia Singers, the Bravo! Vail Music Festival, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Higdon's works have been performed extensively around the country, including performances at the White House, Weill Hall, Merkin Hall, Alice Tully and Carnegie Hall, and have been recorded on two dozen CDs. 2003 brought the Telarc release of *blue cathedral* with the Atlanta Symphony, Robert Spano conducting, and release of several other works on various labels. Higdon holds a Ph.D. and a M.A. in composition from the University of Pennsylvania, a B.M. in flute performance from Bowling Green State University, and an artist diploma from The Curtis Institute of Music. She is currently on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Higdon is published by Lawdon Press. To read more about Higdon, visit www.jeniferhigdon.com.

—Higdon bio courtesy of Eugene Symphony program book 1/15/04

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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.