

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Regina Carter, Mark Stone, Yin Zheng: Stick & String



Oakland University alumna Regina Carter will join OU percussionist Mark Stone and OU pianist Yin Zheng on stage Friday, October 3, 2008 8 p.m. in "Stick & String," an eclectic collection of improvised and composed music.

The program will include two 2008 compositions, "M.S." by Stone and "Iberia" by OU composer Terry Herald, as well as works by Astor Piazzolla, William Grant Still, Paul Schoenfield and "Nkwantompola," traditional music by the people of Busoga, one of the largest kingdoms in Uganda. The artists will cross styles, cultures, and era as Ms. Carter's world-renowned skills as a jazz performer cross paths with Dr. Zheng's elegant piano performance style and the driving energy of Stone's world music percussion expertise.

A Grammy nominee and a 2006 recipient of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, Ms. Carter earned her bachelor's degree in music from OU in 1985. She is well known as an innovative musician and Oakland University is proud to have been part of her music education more than two decades ago. A native Detroit, she studied at the Center for Creative Studies and the New England Conservatory of Music before transferring to Oakland because she wanted to play jazz on the traditionally classical violin. She performed in an exciting, sold-out concert last year with her mentor and pioneering OU jazz professor Marvin 'Doc' Holliday.

Assistant Professor of Piano Dr. Zheng has performed in prestigious venues in Europe, the US, and her native city Shanghai, China. She has also been featured on leading music stages such as Carnegie Hall and Steinway Hall in New York City. She attended Royal Conservatory of Brussels, Belgium, where she graduated with Highest Distinction in both Piano and Theory. In the summer of 2007, she earned her Doctor of Musical Arts from the Eastman School of Music.

Special Instructor of music Mark Stone has an extensive knowledge of American and African musical traditions. He is a founding member of two jazz ensembles, Imaginary Homeland and Musica Mundi, directs the Biakuye Unity Ensemble and Southpaw Island Steel Band, and is a partner at Jumbie Records, dedicated to promoting and recording "New Traditions in World Music". Stone holds a Master's degree in Percussion Performance from the World Music Center of West Virginia University and a Bachelor's degree in Percussion Performance from the University of Michigan School of Music.

Tickets are \$16 for general admission and \$8 for students and available at the Varner Box Office, open one hour before performances and 3-6 p.m., Tuesday-Friday. Also at Star Tickets Plus, www.starticketsplus.com and 800-585-3737 (a service fee applies). This event is part of the Department's Professional Artist Series.

SUMMARY

OU alum and noted jazz improviser Regina Carter takes the Varner Recital Hall stage October 3 with OU world percussionist Mark Stone and OU pianist Yin Zheng in an eclectic program of composed and improvised music.

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