



Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Noted percussionist to perform at OU

Michigan-educated and internationally recognized, multi-percussionist Joseph Gramley brings his accessible and intriguing program to Oakland University on Friday, Sept. 26, at 8 p.m. in Varner Recital Hall. OU's **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** (MTD) welcomes Gramley as the first event in the 2003-2004 Professional Artist Series.

A member of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project and a successful soloist, Gramley will open the Professional Artist Series with a critically acclaimed program. His world-influenced selections employ an array of instruments for pieces by a variety of composers including Kakraaba Lobi of Ghana, Keiko Abe of Japan, and Americans Philip Glass, William Duckworth, David Lang, Eugene Novotney and Charles Griffin. Gramley performs exclusively on SABIAN and Black Swamp Percussion instruments.

Though a native of Oregon, Gramley's formative years were spent in Michigan in both Traverse City and Ann Arbor. He attended Interlochen Arts Academy for two years, followed by four years in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan. He credits these years as highly influential in leading him to a career as a musician.

"I vividly remember touring the state with groups from Interlochen. On different tours, the orchestra, concert band, percussion ensemble or brass ensemble would pile into a bus and travel to many of the smaller towns and communities for concerts. I may have visited over a hundred locales, always staying with host families," Gramley said. "For a 16-year-old from Oregon, this was a great time, getting to tour and give concerts with great musicians."

As a soloist, Gramley has toured throughout the United States and Europe, performing in a wide variety of venues. His first solo recording is entitled "American Deconstruction." In addition to his recorded work with Yo-Yo Ma on the Sony release "Silk Road Journeys," he has recorded with the Orchestra of St. Lukes, Eos Orchestra, James Levine, Essential Music and for MTV and Bravo!Canada.

Gramley's television appearances include the 1999 MTV Video Music Awards, "Late Night with David Letterman," "Good Morning America," CNN, CBC and PBS. Live radio appearances include programs on WNYC and WQXR in New York and nationally on NPR for the BBC and CBC.

Gramley last visited Michigan in 2001 while on tour with Yo-Yo Ma, performing in East Lansing and Macomb and has taught as a guest artist at the University of Michigan.

"Michigan holds a special place in my heart," he said. "I truly value the friends I made in Michigan as they remind me of that vital formative period in my life."

Tickets for the concert are \$15 for the general public and \$8 for students. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Varner Box Office at (248) 370-3013.

The **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** is a member of Arts at Oakland, which brings the performing and visual arts to life through its member organizations. Arts at Oakland offers exhibitions, performances and events throughout the year, serving Oakland University, its neighboring communities and beyond. Besides MTD, other member organizations include **Meadow Brook Art Gallery**, **Meadow Brook Hall** and **Meadow Brook Theatre Ensemble**.

SUMMARY

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