SUPER MARIMBA
Friday, October 28, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.
Pontiac Little Art Theatre
Super Marimba

Payton MacDonald – Marimba
Damon Grant – Latin Percussion
Shawn Mativetsky – Tabla
Mark Stone – Array Mbira

Sponsored by the Judd Family Endowed Fund
and Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec

Selections to be announced from the stage

Payton MacDonald is a composer, percussionist (specializing in marimba), singer, and filmmaker. He explores the frontiers of art in a variety of settings, from Carnegie Hall to remote wilderness locations. He spent his early years drumming along with jazz records, while exploring the Rocky Mountains near his home in Idaho by foot, bicycle, and skis. Eventually he was shaped into a percussionist who plays marimbas, snare drums, bicycles, plants, pots and pans, and anything else that might produce an interesting tone. Along the way Payton discovered Indian classical music, and has studied that music for over 20 years. He often dreams up and executes large-scale, ambitious projects, such as his film Sonic Divide, which shows Payton pedaling his mountain bike 2,500 miles along the Continental Divide, while performing 30 new pieces of music, or his Sonic Peaks project, in which Payton hikes to the summit of hundreds of mountains and creates new music reflecting those experiences. Since 2020 he has released one full-length recording every week, for a total of 100 recordings. Payton studied music formally at the University of Michigan (BFA) and Eastman School of Music (MM and DMA), as well as with the legendary Gundecha Brothers (Dhrupad vocal) and Pandit Sharda Sahai (tabla). He teaches music at William Paterson University, and tours nationally and internationally as a percussionist, singer, and speaker.

Damon Grant is a professional percussionist that can be described as “Rockstar Adjacent”. He is someone who continuously works with musicians who are world renowned in all styles and genres. He recently recorded and released an album called ‘Prevailing Melodies’ produced by David Ryan Harris. He recorded on the Grammy-Nominated album by Blues artist, Joe Louis Walker. Previous to that, he also worked with Madonna on her 2012 Super Bowl halftime show, her MDNA tour, and DVD premiere in NYC. As a professional sideman, Damon has performed, and/or recorded with with world-class musicians in all genres including: Charlie Hunter, Morgan James, David Ryan Harris, Eric Hutchinson, Javier Colon, Erich Bergen, Norbert Leo Butz, Horacio “El Negro” Hernandez, Stefon Harris, Randy Rainbow, and countless others. He as well as his group, The Damon Grant Project, have been featured in Modern Drummer and Latin Beat magazines, and performed in London, at an opening ceremonies event for the 2012 U.S. Olympic team. He was a member of the 10-time DCI World Champion Cadets drum corps and with them, performed at the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta. Damon was also a member of the group The Bomb Squad, which was featured in People magazine and won an American Music Award. He was an original cast member of the show Blast! which won both an Emmy and a Tony award.

Dynamic performer Shawn Mativetsky is considered one of Canada’s leading ambassadors of the tabla, and is a pioneer in bridging the worlds of Western and Indian classical music. Acclaimed as an exceptional soloist and a leading disciple of the renowned Pandit Sharda Sahai, Shawn Mativetsky is highly sought-after as both performer and educator, and is active in the promotion of the tabla and North Indian classical music through lectures, workshops, and performances across Canada and internationally. Based in Montreal, Shawn teaches tabla and percussion at McGill University. His most recent solo tabla album, Rivers, is rooted in the rich traditions of the Benares style of tabla playing. Shawn’s book, RUDIMENTAAL, features compositions for snare drum, inspired by the tabla drumming of North India.

As a practitioner of Indian classical music, Shawn regularly gives solo tabla performances, as well as accompanying kathak dance and instrumental artists. As an ensemble musician, Shawn Mativetsky performs with trio Mativetsky, Amiri & Pagé, violinist
Parmela Attariwala’s cross-cultural Attar Project, Indo-fusion group Ragleela, very long cat, a tabla / electronic music duo with live coder David Ogborn, the improv trio Of Sound, Mind and Body, with Tim Brady and Helmut Lipsky, and percussion group Ensemble Duniya.

**Mark Stone** is an improviser-composer and performer-scholar with a passion for using music to bring diverse communities together. An internationally recognized percussionist, he has performed with the foremost musicians of Uganda, Ghana, South Africa, India, Trinidad, Ecuador, and the United States. Also, an accomplished composer and improver, Stone leads the Stone Sound Collective. His highly original musical style results from innovative performance practice rooted in a deep knowledge of multiple world traditions. Through his dedication to the study of Dagara Gyil music, the Gyil Guba elders of Hiineteng, Ghana honored him with the title of "Gyil Guba" in recognition of his 2016 completion of the Gyil Goba initiation.

Stone is a full professor in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance at Oakland University, where he coordinates the world music and percussion programs. He is also the Arts Area Leader for the OU/Pontiac Initiative and chair of the Percussive Arts Society’s World Percussion Committee. Stone is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of South Africa, where he is pursuing a transdisciplinary study of performance praxis through extensive research in musicology, embodied cognition, and indigenous knowledge systems.

As an American Baha’i, Mark Stone is dedicated to promoting equity, justice, and a world embracing vision of humanity.

**Upcoming SMTD Performances**

OU Akwaaba African Ensemble and Pan-Jumbies Steel Band  
Strand Theatre  
12 N Saginaw St, Pontiac, MI 48342  
Wednesday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m.

OU Jazz Combo and Creative Jazz Ensemble  
Pontiac Little Art Theatre  
47 N Saginaw St, Pontiac, MI 48342  
Tuesday, November 22 at 7:30 p.m.

OU Percussion Ensemble  
Varner Hall - Room 110  
Wednesday, November 30 at 7:30 p.m.

OU Jazz Band and Latin Jazz Ensemble  
Strand Theatre  
12 N Saginaw St, Pontiac, MI 48342  
Thursday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m.

OU Jazz Singers  
University Presbyterian Church  
1385 S Adams Rd, Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
Friday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m.