OREGON CENTER FOR THE ARTS
AT SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

The Innocents: Percussion Performance at Southern Oregon University to Explore Wrongful Imprisonment

ASHLAND, OR. — Southern Oregon University Music Department will present *The Innocents*, a powerful percussion performance by internationally recognized artists Allen Otte and John Lane on Monday, October 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the SOU Music Recital Hall.

The performance is free and open to the public. Doors open at 7 p.m., for the 7:30 p.m. in-person concert, which will be simultaneously live-streamed over the Oregon Center for the Arts YouTube Channel at a link available on the oca.sou.edu website.

The Innocents is a unique project that uses percussion and performance art to explore the experience of wrongful conviction and imprisonment. In this piece, Otte and Lane use sound, movement, found objects, and silence to create an immersive experience that invites audiences to engage emotionally with the subject.

"Allen Otte and John Lane are two icons of the modern percussion community, and their project, *The Innocents*, combines social justice advocacy through performance art and promises to be an unforgettable experience" said Terry Longshore, D.M.A., and Director of the SOU Percussion Ensemble. "It delves deeply into the most current issues surrounding the core subject of wrongful imprisonment and exoneration, as well as a commitment to connect with the communities in which it is performed."

The Innocents has been performed throughout the United States, including at The MLK Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, the Contemporary Arts Center of Cincinnati, and for a conference in conjunction with the Innocence Project of Texas, the Global Center for Democracy and Journalism, and The College of Criminal Justice of Sam Houston State University.

For more information about the artists, reviews and the work John Lane and Allen Otte are doing, go to https://www.the-innocents.com/.

Artist Bios:

Allen Otte is a pioneering percussionist, educator, and founding member of Percussion Group Cincinnati, which he established in 1979. Otte teaches classical and contemporary percussion, eurhythmics, various literature seminars, and coaches and conducts traditional and contemporary chamber music. In addition to his now Emeritus position at the University of Cincinnati, he has also been adjunct professor at the Oberlin Conservatory.

Otte has performed, taught, and presented creative work throughout the Americas, Europe, and Asia. His diverse projects span contemporary music, improvisation, early music, and socially engaged performance.

A frequent guest artist, Otte has appeared at leading institutions and festivals internationally. In 2017, he and his colleagues in Percussion Group Cincinnati were inducted into the International Percussive Arts Society Hall of Fame.

John Lane is a percussionist and interdisciplinary artist whose work spans music, poetry, spoken word, and theater. He has performed internationally, including as a concerto soloist with the National Symphony of Panama and a featured artist at the Antarctica Music Festival. His recordings include *The Landscape Scrolls* (Starkland Records) and *Trigger: Artists Respond to Gun Violence* (Albany Records). He is dedicated to commissioning new works and interdisciplinary collaborations with composers, poets, visual artists, and choreographers.

John is a Yamaha performing artist and endorses Innovative Percussion, Zildjian Cymbals, and Evans Drumheads. He is Professor of Percussion and Director of Percussion Studies at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. Previously, he taught at the University of Wyoming and held fellowships at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and the University of North Texas.



