southern exposure
WHAT'S NOW, NEW AND NEXT AT SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

Terry Longshore's finale as ensemble director

The Southern Oregon University Percussion Ensemble, directed by Dr. Terry Longshore, will present "Good Vibes," an exciting evening of percussion music celebrating positivity and joy on Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 7:30 PM in the SOU Music Recital Hall. "Good Vibes" will feature a joyful blend of percussion ensemble music including carnival music, groove-based drumming, the world premiere of "Scary Terry" by Brett EE Paschal, and the Maraval Road Steel Band. This concert is Dr. Longshore's last concert as the director of the SOU Percussion Ensemble, which he founded in 2000, as he is retiring from full-time teaching at SOU on December 31st.

Repertoire will include:

Clapping Music by Steve Reich – fun, interlocking rhythms performed on the simplest of percussion instruments – hand claps!

The Traveling Carnival: "Opening Night" by Joe Porter, featuring Nolan Pierson, vibraphone soloist. Pierson's virtuosity will lead the ensemble in a romp through many styles including swing, samba, bossa nova, and Afro-Cuban. Drummer Clara Kidd is also featured in solo exchanges with Pierson.

IV by Johanna Magdalena Beyer, one of the earliest percussion ensemble pieces in the repertoire. Expanding and contracting rhythms create a sense of breath that gradually heightens.

Boom by Terry Longshore and Brett Reed - an exciting multi-percussion duet featuring groovy interlocking rhythms and virtuosic improvisation by the performers – featuring Clara Kidd and Nolan Pierson

The world premiere of Scary Terry by Brett Paschal - written as a retirement gift for Terry Longshore by his long time friend and colleague in the Portland Percussion Group, Brett Paschal.

Paschal writes about the work:

To my friend, Terry Longshore. Thank you for all that you have taught me.

In early 2026, I decided to return to composing. I looked for motivation by thinking about people who have significantly influenced my life and music. This piece is dedicated to one of those individuals, Dr. Terry Longshore.

For those who know Terry, "scary" is probably the last word that comes to mind. In all the years I've known him, I don't think I've ever seen him angry. So why Scary Terry?

Terry introduced me to the Takadimi counting system, a rhythmic language that is very helpful for working with combinations of 2s, 3s, and 4s. One day while driving, I found myself counting a pattern of 4 + 2 + 3 + 2 + 2. The total was 13, which started the Scary! I set the tempo to 193 BPM, which is three clicks below my original of 196, giving me another odd number whose digits also add up to 13. Perfect.

The opening section features the performers speaking the Takadimi syllables that inspired the piece. After that, they perform on constructed instruments. It really doesn't get much more Terry than that.

For the main pitch material, I chose the fifth mode of the harmonic minor scale. Terry has always liked another work of mine that uses this scale, so it felt right to use it here again.

One of the key features of this piece is the freedom it gives the performers. Choices of instruments, box construction, and an open improvisational section all promote creative dialogue. As a result, each performance can have its own character, letting the musicians' personalities become part of the composition itself.

The concert will close with three pieces performed by the Maraval Road Steel Band, directed by Reed Bentley. Two favorites of the band, Rant and Rave by Christopher “Tambu” Herbert and Pan Can Jam! by Tracy Thornton will be featured, as well as a new arrangement by ensemble member Clara Kidd of Shy Guy Beach by Minako Hamano, the theme music to the Mario Kart: Super Circuit game on the Nintendo Wii videogame system.

“I am excited for this very uplifting concert, and to get to share it with these students!”—Dr. Terry Longshore

Event Details:

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2026

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: SOU Music Recital Hall, 450 S Mountain Ave, Ashland, OR

Tickets: free admission, no tickets required

For more information, please visit oca.sou.edu/events/ or contact the SOU Box Office at (541) 552-6348.