Sound Maze by Paul Dresher
TUESDAY–FRIDAY, APRIL 4–7, 2017
11AM & 1PM | Vanderhoef Studio Theatre
Recommended for grades 4–12

Welcome

We believe that live performance actively supports the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). As the arts also require complex thinking skills, learning by doing and an innovative interpretation of theme, mood and drama, these common elements are strategically aligned to the progressive learning required of today’s students.

The Mondavi Center Arts Education department’s School Matinees embody the Mondavi Center’s mission to “present a rich program of diverse artists and thinkers in public performance and as the basis for education and engagement programs on our campus and in our region.”

Sound Maze is an immersive, interactive experience of sound and mechanics, consisting of over a dozen newly invented musical instruments and sound sculptures. Designed for audiences of all ages—regardless of musical experience—participants are encouraged to experiment with and play each of these extraordinary inventions to discover new ways of creating sound and music.

Created and built by Bay Area composer and instrument inventor Paul Dresher in collaboration with Alex Vittum and Daniel Schmidt, Sound Maze is designed to unleash the musical creativity of all its participants, rewarding the curious but musically inexperienced as well as those who have a lifelong engagement with sound and music.

As both a composer and performer, Paul Dresher is uniquely able to integrate different musical influences into a coherent and remarkably personal style. He makes music in an astounding variety of ways, he composes and performs experimental opera, chamber and orchestral music, and instrumental electro-acoustic music. He creates and performs on newly invented musical instruments and collaborates each season with artists in theater, dance, and film.

“Paul Dresher [is] a sort of musical Thomas Edison, retreating into his lab . . . to conjure up fantastical new instruments.”
—San Francisco Chronicle

LEARN MORE:
http://dresherensemble.org/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myyZkyUbktQ
Think About It

Dear Students,

1. How would you describe the Sound Maze to a friend?
2. Describe some of the instruments. Which one was your favorite to play and why?
3. If you could design and build your own instrument, what would it look and sound like?

Attending the Theater

What is expected of student audiences at the matinee:
- To facilitate starting the performance on time, get a drink of water and use the restroom before entering the seating area
- Enter the auditorium quietly and take your seats immediately (note that all matinees have reserved seating)
- Show courtesy to the artist and other guests at all times
- Demonstrate appreciation for the artist’s work by applauding
- Refrain from making unnecessary noise or movements
- Please eat lunch before or after the performance. Food is not allowed in the theater
- Use information learned from the pre-matinee discussion to enhance the performance experience
- Please do not photograph or record the artists

What your students can expect of their experience at the Mondavi Center:

A theater is a charged space, full of energy and anticipation. When the house lights (the lights that illuminate the audience seating) go down, the excitement level goes up! Theaters are designed so that the voices of the singers and actors and the music of the musicians can be heard. But this also means that any sound in the audience: whispering, speaking and moving about, can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. Distractions like these upset everyone’s concentration and can spoil a performance.

The performers on stage show respect for their art form and for the audience by doing their very best work. By watching attentively the audience shows respect for the performers. Appreciation can be shown in many different ways, depending upon the art form and the culture(s) of the people in the audience. For instance, while the audience at a dance performance may sit quietly, other types of performances may invite audience participation.

Applause is the best way for audience members to share their enthusiasm and to show their appreciation for the performers. Applaud at the end of a performance! Sometimes the audience will clap during a performance, as after a featured solo. Audience members may feel like laughing if the action on stage is funny, crying if the action is sad, or sighing if something is seen or heard that is beautiful.

Mondavi Center Arts Education

Arts Education provides CueSheets for all performances in the Mondavi Center 2016-17 School Matinee Series. They are intended to help teachers prepare their students for the school matinee that they will attend at Mondavi Center, UC Davis.

MC Fun Facts:
- The outside walls of the Mondavi Center are made from sandstone from India that is 1.8 billion years old.
- What look like fossils in the sandstone tiles, are really iron and manganese crystal dendrites.
- The building sits on 200 pillars to keep the sounds and vibrations of the freeway and trains from being heard or felt inside the theater.
- There are hot water pipes running underneath the Vanderhoef Studio Theatre that heat the floor, so that performers (especially dancers) can more easily warm up.

Support provided by

mondaviarts.org | 530.754.5431