



SCHOOL OF  
**MUSIC**

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COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS | THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

# ÌKAN ÌPÀKÓ

## Jazz Area Faculty & Guest Concert

Josiah Boornazian  
Mark Ramirez

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Weight/Hales Choral Room, DGH 270

Virtual Venue: <https://music.utah.edu/libby-live/index.php>

6:00 p.m.

## **Program**

*(Please hold applause until the end of the recital  
and turn off all electronic devices that could disrupt the recital.)*

ÌKAN ÌPÀKÓ features Josiah Boornazian and Mark Ramirez uniting to take the art of freely improvised jazz into the digital age. The saxophone/drum set duo (a la John Coltrane's *Interstellar Space*) is enhanced by Josiah's use of electronic effects and digital synthesizers and Mark's use of marimba, vibraphone, and piano.

*This evening's performance will feature a continuous set of  
improvised music.*

**Mark Ramirez** (drums, percussion, vibraphone, piano)

Dr. Mark Joseph Ramirez is Professor of Percussion and an Associate Dean in the College of Fine Arts at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. As an artist, Mark has performed and collaborated under the direction of some of the leading musical authorities in the field composition, including Pulitzer Prize-winning composers John Corigliano, David Del Tredici and William Bolcom and Prix de Rome recipient Kevin Puts. He has performed with internationally acclaimed jazz and classical artists Ernie Watts, Eddie Daniels, Greg Abate, Jeff Jarvis, Dick Oats, Steve Wiest, Gordon Stout, Phil Smith, and performed as a guest Soloist with the Rio Grande Valley Symphony Orchestra.

As a scholar, Dr. Ramirez has received invitations to present and perform at the International Conference on Caribbean Studies, the Southwestern Conference on Latin American Studies, the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, and the American Association of Hispanic in Higher Education. In addition, Dr. Ramirez was awarded a 2008- 2009 Faculty Fellowship from the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education and the 2015 Kerspit (X, Y)-honor Artist in Residency Fellow in Gent, Belgium.

Other work includes six pending publications of original compositions for Marimba entitled *Psalm*, *Despedidas*, and *Wooden Landscapes: IV Landscapes for Marimba*. In the fall of 2012, I completed a collaboration with Fulbright SIR Scholar Mark Cloet (artist and sculptor). An exhibition entitled *C. Stone* was showcased at the International Museum of Art and Science in McAllen, TX. The exhibit ran for six months, from October 2012 through February 2013.

My contribution to the exhibition resulted in a five-movement original composition entitled Transformation of Stone. The first two movements were recorded at Breed Music in Dallas, TX in collaboration with 2012 84th Oscar Academy Award Winner John Hunter.

**Josiah Boornazian** (saxophone, synthesizers, and electronic effects)

Dr. Josiah Boornazian is an award-winning saxophonist, composer, educator, electronic musician, and scholar of music most recently active in Utah, Europe, South Texas, Miami, New York City, Washington state, and California. He is currently the Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. Dr. Boornazian has also taught applied saxophone and jazz studies at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, music technology at Broward College, jazz and general music appreciation at the City College of New York, and applied saxophone, jazz performance, and musicology at the University of Miami Frost School of Music. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Miami Frost School of Music, a Master of Arts degree from the City College of New York, and a Bachelor of Music degree from California State University, Northridge.

As a performing and recording artist, Dr. Boornazian has been cultivating an innovative, technology-based jazz performance practice for several years, which began with his adoption of digital effects pedals for live performances. He has continued to develop his creative musical approach to include the use of software-based synthesizers, evolving electronic effects, and improvised digital accompaniment using Ableton, the popular digital audio workstation.

Dr. Boornazian's recordings feature his original compositions and include two modern jazz albums released by the Barcelona-based label Fresh Sound New Talent Records as well nearly thirty self-published jazz and electronic albums available on Bandcamp.com and all major online music streaming platforms. In his career as a jazz and electronic artist, Dr. Boornazian has performed with a stylistically diverse collection of musicians including Mark Farina, Dave Liebman, Chris Potter, Dave Holland, Nick Smart, Diane Schuur, Dave Grusin, Arturo Sandoval, John Faddis, Jimmy Heath, Ignacio Berroa, John Beasley, Dafnis Prieto, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Drew Gress, David Binney, Wayne Krantz, Ari Hoenig, Donny McCaslin, Will Vinson, Ben Wendel, Ferenc Nemeth, Alan Ferber, John Daversa, Kenny Wollesen, the Gil Evans Orchestra, Lew Soloff, Massimo Biolcati, Shelly Berg, the South Florida Jazz Orchestra, and the Hot House West Swing Orchestra, among others.

As a jazz researcher and scholar, his peer-reviewed publications include articles in *Jazz Perspectives*, *Jazz Education in Research and Practice*, *The International Association of Schools of Jazz Journal of Applied Research*, and *The Saxophone Symposium*. Dr. Boornazian has also published more than fifty articles for the popular jazz education website [LearnJazzStandards.com](http://LearnJazzStandards.com). Dr. Boornazian recently gave research presentations and clinics at the 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Jazz Education Network Conferences, the 2022 Texas Music Educators Association Conference, and the 2023 Utah Music Educators Conference. He was also awarded a Björn Bärnheim Research Fellowship at the Hogan Jazz Archive housed at Tulane University during the 2017–2018 academic year.

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