

# SCHOOL OF MUSIC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **University of Minnesota School of Music's World of Improvisation presents *Playing on Clave: Afro-Cuban Concepts of Improvisation*, featuring Damian Rodriguez (vocals/percussion)**

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (2/3/10) – On Thursday, February 11, 2010, from 11:15 am–1:10 pm in Ferguson Hall's Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall on the U of M West Bank campus, the University of Minnesota School of Music's Worlds of Improvisation presents singer/percussionist Damian Rodriguez, along with Viviana Pintado and Douglas Little from the Minneapolis-based Charanga Tropical trio, performing a set of Afro-Cuban music illustrating the rhythmic principles of clave-based improvisation. This concert will be followed by an informally staged interview, in which Rodriguez will discuss the development of his improvisational conceptions and respond to questions from audience members. This event is free and open to the public, tickets not required.

Damian Rodriguez grew up splitting his time between the city of Havana and the Cuban countryside. A professional singer and percussionist for over twenty-five years, Rodriguez has performed with Latin groups from Miami to New York to Minneapolis. Pianist and vocalist Viviana Pintado also hails from Havana; she has toured internationally with salsa queen Albita, and received three Latin Grammy nominations as a member of Albita's group. Charanga Tropical founder Douglas Little studied with legendary flute players Jauquin Oliveros and Jorge Leliebre in Havana, where he was introduced to *charanga*, the unique style that blends violins and flute with Cuban rhythms.

"Worlds of Improvisation" is a series of open lecture-demonstrations – hosted and moderated by School of Music faculty Erkki Huovinen and Scott Currie – focused on global traditions of musical improvisation, introducing U of M students, faculty, and staff as well as the general public to the extemporaneous artistry of distinguished musicians in the Twin Cities and beyond.

Future "Worlds of Improvisation" events include 'Paraphrase Improvisation in Jazz' on March 4, 2010; "Arabic Maqam Improvisation" on April 1, 2010; and "Hindustani Raga Improvisation" on April 22, 2010. These events are made possible by the School of Music Engaged Department Leadership Team with funding from the University of Minnesota Office for Public Engagement

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 500 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of more than 50 artists, scholars and teachers. The School of Music presents more than 400 free concerts per year. For a complete schedule of events, visit [www.music.umn.edu](http://www.music.umn.edu) or call (612) 626-1094 for a brochure.

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