

**Bennington College**  
**Deane Carriage Barn Presents:**  
**Ijeoma Thomas & Oluyemi Thomas**  
**with Michael Bisio and Michael Wimberly**  
**Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 8pm**

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**Spirit Music...Music that targets the heart sending vibrations from invisible wisdom generated by sub-harmonic fractals, sonic oscillations and rhythmic convergence helping you transcend this physical realm. M. Wimberly**

**Universe People**

**We are the universe sons daughters**

**Unknown moons**

**Ageless stars**

**Universe people**

**Infinite born one beginning no end**

**O CREATION**

**earth air time**

**small points marking a place**

**a space for universe people**

**the planet is home universe queens**

**kings divine beings we are**

**universe people**

**O CREATION!**

**IJEOMA THOMAS**

**Ijeoma Thomas** is a wordsmith, spoken word artist, poet, vocalist and teacher. Ijeoma Thomas was born and raised in Washington D.C. and is now based in Oakland, California. Ijeoma believes "all art is a gift of the Holy Spirit". She has composed, performed and recorded with the music unit "Positive Knowledge" and published many chapbooks and individual poems in local and national publications.

Ijeoma has traveled and toured in New York City, Europe and West Africa. She has also been Artist-in-Residence at Headlands Center for the Arts in Marin, California. Thomas has lent a vocal poetic motif to the works of Cecil Taylor, Roscoe Mitchell, Wadada Leo Smith, Miya Masaoka, William Parker and Alan Silva.

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**Oluyemi Thomas** (bass clarinet, C melody) was born in Detroit, Michigan. Thomas studied at Washtenaw College in Ann Arbor, Michigan where he received an Associate of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. While attending Washtenaw College he also studied music and the spiritual and physical nature of sound & silence. Great love and respect for the Arts is regarded as a gem to his parents who passed this on to him and his sisters and brothers. In his childhood years his mother & father often listened to the masters Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Dinah Washington and Billie Holiday. As a creative musician, performer, recording artist, teacher and engineer, Mr. Thomas seeks to express his abiding love for the hidden power of art touching on the inner core of individuals. For two decades he & his wife, poet Ijeoma, have been members of the music and poetry unit Positive Knowledge. Oluyemi and Ijeoma's music may be heard on labels Music & Arts, Ear Light Records, Eremite, Rastacan & BMG labels. Oluyemi's experience in sharing musical language utterance include the great Cecil Taylor, Wadada Leo Smith, Alan Silva, William Parker, Wilber Morris, John Tchicai, Roscoe Mitchell, Sirone, Henry Grimes, Kidd Jordan, Bobby Few, Marshall Allen, Eddie Gale, Ijeoma Thomas, Miya Masaoka, Peter Kowald, Kenn Thomas, Gino Robair, Spirit and wonderful conversations with Anthony Braxton and Charles Gayle. Mr. Oluyemi believes "The musician's art is among those arts worthy of the highest praise"... and "Music should lead to spirituality"...

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**Michael Bisio**(bassist)earned a Bachelor of Music from the University of Washington in 1979. His fusion jazz compositions draw heavily on avant garde music while sometimes including elements of Third Stream, free jazz, and classical music. Bisio can walk a bass line with a deep swing rooted in a jazz aesthetic while avoiding categorizations of music that fuse tradition with unique and unexplored realms of jazz. Bisio focuses on collective improvisation, and pays particular attention to how each band member interacts with the group as a whole. Many musicians who have worked with him later went on to impressive careers. As a performer, Bisio is a pioneer in double bass technique, widely recognized as one of the instrument's most proficient players. Bisio has composed over one hundred works of various forms and lengths for the ensembles under his leadership and many of his associates. Bisio appears on over 60 CDs, leading on 11 CDs and co-leading on another 10. His recorded output has consistently met with critical praise. Michael Bisio has been an instructor of bass at Bennington College since 2009.

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**Michael Wimberly** is a composer, percussionist and music producer based in Harlem, New York, who has recorded and toured internationally with innovative musicians such as, Charles Gayle, William Parker, Sabir Mateen, Cooper-Moore and Roy Campbell. Wimberly has been featured with Europe's Rundfunk and Tonkuntsler Symphony Orchestras as well as with Europe's International Regions Symphony and the Yakima Chamber Orchestra in Yakima, WA. Wimberly's compositions appear in dance companies Urban Bush Women, Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey, Philadanco, Forces of Nature, Ailey II, Complexions, Ballet Noir, Alpha Omega, BalEthnic, Purelements and The National Song and Dance Company of Mozambique. Currently in post-production for his documentary film The Sound of Freedom, Wimberly received an Arts International fund to capture a musical portrait of Mozambique's traditional dances and national instrument the "Timbila" along with performances of Mozambique's national treasure Venancio Mbande. As president of the Michael Wimberly Cooperative "Together with Music" a non-profit based on the island of São Miguel, Açores, Portugal, as well as creator of the international percussion event, "Power of Drum", Wimberly is actively engaged with an alternative arts program whose mission is to make accessible to all youth and children, independently of social status, age, gender and ethnic background, the learning of music and it's relation to all the other arts and sciences. As a board member of the long-standing predecessor to independent television, Deep-Dish TV, he is equally engaged in helping transform this iconic entity to weather the 21st century and build a new legacy. Wimberly is a music professor at Bennington College, joining the faculty in fall 2012.

*Special thanks to Bennington College and it's student community, music faculty, Bahá'u'lláh, Harmony for Humanities Daniel Pearl Foundation for his remembrance, Amanda Pappas, and all those involved in helping this event come together.*