

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA
McINTIRE DEPARTMENT of **music**

presents



by
John Lane & Allen Otte

Sunday, April 16, 2023
6:00 pm
Brooks Hall
University of Virginia

Program

The Innocents (2006/Rev. 2018)

John Lane (b. 1979)
Allen Otte (b. 1950)

Program Notes

This approximately one hour dramatic soundscape is comprised of seventeen individual tableaux, which endeavor to explore various aspects of the issues surrounding wrongful imprisonment and exoneration in the American criminal justice system: mistaken identity, incarceration, psychology, politics, injustice, and resilience. Though we do this from our admittedly privileged perspective, we have available not only the information – both factual and testimonial – but, significantly, we have resources of a time and sound-based art. In performance, we have the opportunity to direct and focus our attention, and more importantly, to engage on an emotional level, where experience is more than simply processing facts and figures.

Some of the soundscapes are meant to be uncomfortable — too long, momentarily chaotic and confusing, difficult to understand. Others are simple and direct. Our idea is to shine a light on this subject — as if through a prism — in hopes that various aspects surrounding it may briefly come into focus for each of us. We offer no answers, but through our work we strive to confront questions.

Art provides a platform for advocacy, and affords us an opportunity to raise our voices in the name of something other than ourselves — hopefully in an eloquent and memorable way. Our offering wishes to prove the power of empathic engagement with issues that ultimately touch all of our lives.

About the Performers

John Lane is an artist whose creative work and collaborations extend through percussion to poetry/spoken word and theater. As a performer, he has appeared on stages throughout the Americas, Australia, and Japan. As an advocate of social justice, he co-created with Allen Otte *The Innocents*, which the duo has performed throughout the US, including appearances at the Innocence Network Conference, Woody Guthrie Center, and Atlanta's Center for Civil and Human Rights. He has recorded two albums: *The Landscape Scrolls* (Starkland Records, 2018) and *TRIGGER: Artists Respond to Gun Violence* (Albany Records, 2021). John is the Professor of Percussion at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.
www.john-lane.com

Allen Otte was a cofounder of the Blackearth Percussion Group and of Percussion Group Cincinnati, and toured for decades throughout the world performing new and experimental music created for him and his colleagues. Otte regularly presents his own creative work, often in residencies centered around the theme of performing social justice, and is the regular percussionist with the early music quartet Trobar Medieval. He is professor Emeritus, University of Cincinnati, and in 2017, was inducted into the International Percussive Arts Society Hall of Fame.

To learn more, please visit our website: www.the-innocents.com



Special Thanks To:

The Department of Music and all the students, interns, and volunteers who made this performance possible.

An Arts Enhancement Event supported by the
Office of the Provost & the Vice Provost for the Arts.



For more information about any of our events visit
music.virginia.edu/events,
or subscribe to our weekly music e-mail at music.virginia.edu/subscribe,
or follow [uvamus](#) on social media.