

**Creativity Illuminated Events celebrate creativity and discovery through music, films, and discussion.**

**MANHATTAN** – During four days in April, 2014 Creativity Illuminated offers opportunities to explore the arts, culture, and history through musical performances, discussions, workshops, and film screenings presented by artists in residence. Sponsored by Kansas State University's Beach Museum of Art, K-State Libraries, McCain Auditorium and the School of Leadership Studies, Creativity Illuminated is an ongoing collaborative event series that fosters creativity, promotes academic discourse, and encourages cultural awareness on campus and in the community. Events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

**Presentation by Yuval Ron on his international work for peace, Thursday, April 3 at 4:00 p.m. School of Leadership Studies large conference room.**

Israeli-born composer/musician Yuval Ron reveals shared musical heritages to help Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities to build mutual respect and empathy. He has led musical peace missions to the Middle East and regularly brings musicians from the three traditions together in concert. Talk co-sponsored by Leadership Studies and Office of International Programs.

**Film screening: "Breaking the Maya Code," Thursday, April 3 at 4:00 p.m., Beach Museum of Art (David Lebrun, Director; Yuval Ron, Film Score Composer).**

The complex and beautiful hieroglyphic script of the ancient Maya was until recently one of the last great untranslated writing systems. Based on the best-selling book by Michael Coe, "Breaking the Maya Code" traces the epic quest to unlock the secrets of the script across 200 years, nine countries and three continents. Q&A with David Lebrun and Yuval Ron to follow.

**Public conversation with the creators of Maya Variations and K-State faculty, Thursday, April 3 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Hale Library, Hemisphere Room**

Mayan language, art, and history, as well as Mayan culture today will be explored in this discussion of themes suggested by the multi-media work "Maya Variations for Earth Harp." It will include the perspectives of documentary filmmakers, musicians, anthropologists, and more. Reception follows.

**Film screening: "Dance of the Maize God," Friday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m., Beach Museum of Art (David Lebrun, Director; Yuval Ron, Film Score Composer).**

Over the past 50 years thousands of exquisitely painted Mayan vases, almost all looted from royal tombs, have flooded into the world's public and private collections. This documentary enters the world of the vases to explore the royal life and rich mythology of the Maya, as well as the tangled issues involved in the collection and study of Mayan art. Q&A with David Lebrun and Yuval Ron to follow.

**Concert: "Earth Harp Meets Oud," Sunday, April 6 at 4:00 p.m., McCain Auditorium (paid ticket required, call 785-532-6428 for more information)**

William Close, Earth Harp; Yuval Ron, oud; Norik Manoukian, Armenian woodwinds; Jamie Papish, percussion

Ancient strings meets modern design in this unique concert by Yuval Ron, award-winning composer and oud master, and William Close, inventor of the awe inspiring Earth Harp, the largest stringed instrument in the world. The Earth Harp's body will rest on stage while its strings ascend above the audience, attaching to the balcony railing and turning the entire theatre into a musical instrument. For the first time, sacred and folkloric music of the

Middle East will be performed on the giant Earth Harp in concert with the traditional oud (Middle Eastern lute), Armenian woodwinds (duduk, shvi flute and zurna reed flute) and percussion.

**Concert: “Maya Variations for Earth Harp,” Sunday, April 6 at 8:00 p.m. Hale Library-Great Room (ticket required, call 785-532-6428 for more information)**

William Close, Earth Harp; Yuval Ron, composer and laptop computer; Norik Manoukian, Armenian woodwinds; David Lebrun, video director

“Maya Variations” is a multimedia work that showcases the Earth Harp’s creator William Close, Armenian woodwind master Norik Manoukian, and an experimental art film by director David Lebrun. The piece contrasts the ancient Mayan civilization and its connection to nature with our contemporary industrialized civilization and its reliance on technology. This unique performance features the strings of the Earth Harp soaring over the audience in the spectacular grandeur of Hale Library’s Great Room (also known as the “Harry Potter Room”) for a one-of-a-kind sensory experience.

K-State student activities include:

- A video production workshop presented by filmmakers David Lebrun and Amy Halpern (Lighting Director, “Breaking the Maya Code”) with marketing, communications and art students and faculty.
- A musical instrument design workshop with William Close for architecture, interior architecture, and music students.
- A lecture demonstration for music students with Norik Manoukian.

For more information on any of the Creativity Illuminated events, please contact the Beach Museum Of Art, 785-532-7718 or visit <http://www.lib.k-state.edu/illuminate>.