Jazz Collides With Mathematics and Physics in the Works of Pianist Vijay Iyer at Wisconsin Union Theater

Jazz is a genre of music that toggles between the beauty of improvisation and exploration and the intelligence of its precision and technique. Sharing his jazz piano talent at the Wisconsin Union Theater is Vijay Iyer, a jazz pianist and physicist. Iyer will perform Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. in the Fredric March Play Circle. Tickets for the show are $30.50 for the general public, $27.50 for Wisconsin Union Members and Non UW-Madison Students, $28.50 for UW-
Madison Faculty and Staff, and $10 for UW-Madison Students. Tickets are available online and at the Campus Arts Ticketing Box Office, (608) 265-ARTS (2787).

Iyer completed his undergraduate degree in mathematics and physics at Yale University, pursued a doctorate in physics at the University of California-Berkeley, then switched to receive a PhD in Technology and Arts-Music Cognition, studying the relationship of music and society. His journey in music began at the age of three when he was trained on the violin. Eventually, Iyer chose the piano, which he mostly taught himself.

Iyer has won numerous awards, such as the 2012 Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, a Grammy nomination for Best Instrumental Jazz Album in 2010, and an unprecedented "triple crown" in the 2012 Down Beat International Jazz Critics Poll, in which he was voted Artist of the Year, Pianist of the Year, Small Group of the Year (for the Vijay Iyer Trio), Album of the Year (for Accelerando), and Rising Star Composer of the Year. He received a 2013 MacArthur fellowship, voted the 2014 Pianist of the Year and 2015 Jazz Artist of the Year in the Down Beat International Jazz Critics Poll. Currently, he serves as a professor at Harvard University’s Department of Music.

This performance, which is more than half-sold already, is presented by the Wisconsin Union Theater’s Performing Arts Committee. This performance was supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. WORT 89.9 and Wisconsin Public Radio are media sponsors.