

The Ogún Meji Duo (Drummer-Composer Mark Lomax And Saxophonist Edwin Bayard) Present A Bold, Dynamic Politically Conscious Suite With The Album **#BLACKLIVESMATTER**

**#BLACKLIVESMATTER – concert May 26, 2015, at Fresh A.I.R. Gallery
Church 131 N. High Street Columbus, Ohio 43215**

“This release by drummer/leader/composer Mark Lomax might be an uncompromising record with its origins in the issues of racial and artistic politics but it is also a thoroughly absorbing, convincing and, on its own terms, enjoyable musical work.”— The Jazz Mann

www.marklomaxii.com/blacklivesmatter (free album download)

The Ogún Meji Duo of **Mark Lomax, II** and **Edwin Bayard** have created a boldly dynamic, and politically conscious suite with the album **#BLACKLIVESMATTER**, to be performed at the **St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church** (30 W. Woodruff Avenue, Columbus Ohio 43210) on Saturday May 2, 2015 at 7pm.

#BLACKLIVESMATTER is an album created in support of the **#BLACKLIVESMATTER** movement, released January 2015. A three (3) movement work, the album is a **powerful** marriage of **purpose** and artistic ability in service to larger, **compelling** themes on race, power, and society, and what it means to be American. It is a **revolutionary** work in a seemingly prophetic tradition led by such artists as Max Roach, Charles Mingus, Nina Simone, and John Coltrane. The album will be played in its entirety (50 mins), with accompanying multimedia presentation and Q&A with the artists following the performance.

Questions to consider around this work:

- 1) Discussion of the material
- 2) Americans vs. American’ts
- 3) Next Steps

Lomax and Bayard are internationally renowned musicians with two critically acclaimed releases on the **Inarhyme Records** label. Their 2014 **Mark Lomax Trio** release *Isis & Osiris* was praised for its “compelling...conceptual imagination” by *Textura*, and *Jazz Columbus* called the music “a cohesive body of work that tells these stories through beautifully emotional spiritual jazz.”

Dr. Mark Lomax, II

As a drummer, Mark Lomax has led his own groups and has been featured as a member of the Marlon Jordan Quintet, Delfeayo Marsalis Sextet, Ellis Marsalis Quintet and Azar Lawrence/Edwin Bayard Quintet. He has also performed with jazz legend Clark Terry, as well as saxophonists Billy Harper, Bennie Maupin, Victor Goines and Wessel "Warm Daddy" Anderson. Lomax has also toured with many local and regional bands playing a wide variety of styles, from folk, blues and rock to funk, gospel, R&B and hip-hop. As a composer, he has written jazz, gospel and classical works, and his orchestral arrangements of gospel songs have been played by the Nashville Symphony Orchestra and National Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Czech National Symphony. He has produced eight recordings for his BMR label that range from traditional and more avant-garde jazz to gospel music for children. Lomax holds a Doctor of Music Arts in composition from Ohio State University.

Edwin Bayard

The son of a be-bop era trumpeter who played in Dizzy Gillespie's jazz orchestra, Bayard was born into a musical legacy that has placed him in the lineage of the great tenor players: Coleman Hawkins, John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins and Eddie Harris to name but a few. Bayard brings pure fire to the bandstand with every performance with his virtuosic style, and has learned to be both explosive and sensitive as the demands of his expression requires. This very gifted, and exciting, reedman began his professional career at the age of 16. He studied music performance at the Berklee School of Music and the Ohio State University School of Music. As a side man Edwin has toured Europe with various jazz groups, and has shared the stage with the likes of Marlon Jordan, Gary Bartz and Donald Byrd. Edwin has also played with alto saxophonist Wes Anderson (Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra), the late great jazz vocalist Betty Carter, and saxophone legend Bennie Maupin.

Press photos, sound samples and more available at:

www.marklomaxii.com

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