In honor of the 50th anniversary year of the March on Washington and the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the Clarice Smith Center’s 2013–2014 Creative Dialogues explore the issues of civil rights in a modern-day context. The right to pursue freedom of all kinds is a founding principle of our nation, but in today’s complex and changing society, freedom can be elusive.

The 2013–2014 Creative Dialogues series will address a range of ideas on liberty and justice in the United States — the imbalance of hunger and nutrition, gay rights and marriage, war and pacifism — all with an emphasis on the artists’ experience and interpretation. Sparking discussion and new thinking around all civil liberties, the series will explore such questions as “Are we really free and equal?” and “How far have we come?”

BEYOND SLAVERY: FREDERICK DOUGLASS AND THE QUEST FOR UNIVERSAL RIGHTS

Tuesday, February 4, 2014 . 7:30PM . Dance Theatre . FREE

Dr. Ira Berlin, Department of History, University of Maryland
Colum McCann, Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing, Hunter College
Dr. Patrick O’Shea, Vice President for Research, University of Maryland
Dr. Shari L. Parks, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Humanities, University of Maryland

This conversation will feature writer and educator Colum McCann who will be joined by Dr. Shari L. Parks, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, and UMD professors Ira Berlin and Patrick O’Shea, as we explore the influence Douglass had on religious freedom, gender issues and slavery.

FAST FOOD, SLOW FOOD AND FOOD JUSTICE: GLOBAL POLICIES CREATING GLOBAL HUNGER

Monday, April 21, 2014 . 7:30PM . Gildenhorn Recital Hall . FREE

Dr. Luka Arsenjuk, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of Maryland
Dr. Perla M. Guerrero, Department of American Studies, University of Maryland
Dr. Orlando R. Serrano Jr., Department of American Studies & Ethnicity, University of Southern California
Dr. Psyche Williams-Forson, Department of American Studies, University of Maryland

Join UMD professors Perla M. Guerrero, Luka Arsenjuk and Psyche Williams-Forson, along with USC’s Orlando R. Serrano Jr., as they discuss how food is at the heart of major policy flaws and societal disparities in the United States and around the world.

HOMER’S ILIAD: AN ANTI-WAR MANIFESTO?

Thursday, May 1, 2014 . 7:30PM . Dance Theatre . FREE

Dr. Sudip Bose, Emergency Medicine Physician and Founder, The Battle Continues
Drew Cameron, Director, Combat Paper Project
Dr. Lillian Doherty, Department of Classics, University of Maryland
Denis O’Hare, actor

This discussion of Homer’s epic will feature perspectives from actor Denis O’Hare, Iraq veteran and artist Drew Cameron, UMD Classicist and Homerist Lillian Doherty, and emergency medicine physician and combat veteran Sudip Bose, who founded the organization The Battle Continues after his 15-month deployment to the front lines during the Iraq War.

ABOUT KOJO NNAMDI

Kojo Nnamdi is host of The Kojo Nnamdi Show, a live talk show produced by WAMU 88.5 that airs weekdays at noon. Nnamdi welcomes a lineup of interesting and provocative guests who offer new perspectives about current events, political issues, social policy, art, science and other topics. The show encourages listener calls, creating a dynamic dialogue about issues that are important or interesting to the Washington DC region. Nnamdi is a native of Guyana who immigrated to the United States in 1968 to attend college and explore the Civil Rights Movement.

Support for Beyond Slavery: Frederick Douglass and the Quest for Universal Rights

The series is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

For decades Bobby McFerrin has broken all the rules. The 10-time GRAMMY winner has blurred the distinction between pop music and fine art, goofing around barefoot in the world's finest concert halls, exploring uncharted vocal territory, inspiring a whole new generation of a cappella singers and the beatbox movement. His latest album, Spirityouall, is a bluesy, feel-good recording, an unexpected move from the music industry rebel who single-handedly redefined the role of the human voice with his a cappella hit "Don't Worry, Be Happy," his collaborations with Yo-Yo Ma, Chick Corea and the Vienna Philharmonic, his improvising choir Voicestra and his legendary solo vocal performances.

It's been the quietest and most polite of revolutions. Bobby McFerrin was always an unlikely pop star. He created a lasting ear-worm of a #1 hit early in his career. Then he calmly went back to pursuing his own iconoclastic musical journey, improvising on national television, singing melodies without words, spontaneously inventing parts for 60,000 choral singers in a stadium in Germany, ignoring boundaries of genre, defying all expectations. Most people don't know that McFerrin came from a family of singers. His father, the Metropolitan Opera baritone Robert McFerrin Sr., provided the singing voice for Sidney Poitier for the film version of Porgy & Bess, and his mother Sara was a fine soprano soloist and voice teacher. McFerrin grew up surrounded by music of all kinds. He remembers conducting Beethoven on the stereo at three, hiding under the piano while his father and mother coached young singers, dancing around the house to Louis Armstrong, Judy Garland, Etta Jones and Fred Astaire. He played the clarinet seriously as a child, but he began his musical career as a pianist, at the age of 14. He led his own jazz groups, studied composition, toured with the show band for the Ice Follies and played for dance classes. Then one day he was walking home and suddenly he understood that he had been a singer all along.

Bobby McFerrin's history as an instrumentalist and bandleader is key to understanding his innovative approach to mapping harmony and rhythm (as well as melody) with his voice. "I can't sing everything at once," he says, "but I can hint at it so the audience hears even what I don't sing." All that pioneer spirit and virtuosity has opened up a great big sky full of new options for singers; so have McFerrin's experiments in multi-tracking his voice ("Don't Worry, Be Happy" has seven separate, over-dubbed vocal tracks; McFerrin's choral album VocaBuLarieS, featuring Roger Trece, has thousands). But virtuosity isn't the point. "I try not to 'perform' onstage," says McFerrin. "I try to sing the way I sing in my kitchen, because I just can't help myself. I want audiences to leave the theater and sing in their own kitchens the next morning. I want to bring audiences into the incredible feeling of joy and freedom I get when I sing."
CHICK COREA (piano), an NEA Jazz Master, 20-time GRAMMY winner, prolific composer and undisputed keyboard virtuoso, has attained living-legend status after four decades of unparalleled creativity and an artistic output that is simply staggering.

From straight-ahead to avant-garde, bebop to fusion, children’s songs to chamber music, along with some far-reaching forays into symphonic works, Chick Corea has touched an astonishing number of musical bases in his illustrious career while maintaining a standard of excellence that is awe-inspiring. A tirelessly creative spirit, Corea continues to forge ahead, continually reinventing himself in the process.

Since embarking on a solo career in 1966, Corea has been at the forefront of jazz, both as a renowned pianist forging new ground with his acoustic jazz bands and as an innovative electric keyboardist with Return to Forever and the Elektric Band. His extensive discography boasts numerous essential albums, beginning with his 1968 classic, Now He Sings, Now He Sobs.

Chick Corea continues to make a significant impact on the scene, as evidenced by 2007’s Latin GRAMMY-winning The Enchantment (duets with banjo virtuoso Béla Fleck), 2008’s GRAMMY-winning The New Crystal Silence (duets with longstanding collaborator Gary Burton), 2009’s Returns (documenting Return to Forever’s 2008 reunion tour) and 2009’s GRAMMY-winning Five Peace Band Live (with John McLaughlin, Christian McBride, Kenny Garrett and Vinnie Colaiuta).

In 2012, Corea took home two GRAMMY Awards, including Best Jazz Instrumental Solo, for Forever, the 2-CD set recorded on his acoustic trio tour with Return to Forever bandmates Stanley Clarke and Lenny White. The two honors were, remarkably, Corea’s 17th and 18th GRAMMY Awards.

Corea’s recent schedule continues his unbroken string of productivity, with more world tours and four new albums: the critically acclaimed Further Explorations (with Eddie Gomez and Paul Motian); The Continents: Concerto for Jazz Quintet and Chamber Orchestra, an ambitious new classical release and a crowning achievement in his work as a master composer; the release of Return to Forever’s latest live album, The Mothership Returns; and the two-time GRAMMY-winning Hot House, a transcendent new set of standards in his acclaimed duet with Gary Burton.

Chick Corea’s latest project, The Vigil, with all new music and a new band, was released on Concord Jazz August 6, 2013.

Bobby McFerrin and Chick Corea — in the UMD Libraries

The following items and materials related to this performance are available in the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library. To access materials held in the International Piano Archives at Maryland (IPAM) or the Paged Collections Room of MSPAL, please ask at the circulation desk.

*The Mozart Sessions* — Bobby McFerrin, Chick Corea, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra
Location: Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library — IPAM
Call Number: MSONY SK 92601
Vocalist Bobby McFerrin, pianist Chick Corea and the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart come together in a combination that shouldn’t be missed. Corea’s Latin-inspired improvised cadenzas are artfully woven together with McFerrin’s lilting falsetto and the familiar strains of Mozart’s Piano Concertos in A Major, K. 488 and D Minor, K. 466 to create a brilliant tapestry of sound. Fans of jazz and classical music alike will find this collaboration to be a delightful surprise.

*Handful of Keys: Conversations with 30 Jazz Pianists* — Alyn Shipton
Location: Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library — Stacks
Call Number: ML3506 .S54 2004
Handful of Keys explores the biographies, techniques and personal styles of some of the most notable names in jazz piano, including Dave Brubeck, Herbie Hancock, Diana Krall, Marian McPartland and Chick Corea. Through interviews with these acclaimed performers, author Alyn Shipton creates a historical account of jazz piano from the days of bebop to the present. Shipton’s conversation with Chick Corea addresses the evolution of the pianist’s eclectic style, a topic that is sure to be of interest to any fan of Corea’s long discography.

*Spirityouall* — Bobby McFerrin
Location: Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library — Paged Collections Room
Call Number: MCD 15616
Bobby McFerrin’s newest release, *Spirityouall* (2013) is a collection of classic spirituals and original music that takes the listener on an otherworldly musical journey. Through a diverse combination of sounds inspired by the traditions of blues, jazz, bluegrass, folk, and rhythm and blues, McFerrin explores and reimagines well-known tunes while making new music sound as familiar as the old favorites. McFerrin pushes his voice to the limits in this collection of 13 songs, showcasing his ability to go from a light falsetto to a growly wail that perfectly encapsulates the soul of the blues. A must-listen for fans of all genres of Americana music.

For more information on these UMD Library materials and other resources relating to the performers, pieces, composers and themes of this program, please visit us at www.lib.umd.edu/mspal/mspal-previews.