**Solos & Duos Series continues with percussion virtuoso Andrew Cyrille**

A collaborative project of the Augusta Savage Gallery, Residential Arts and the Fine Arts Center Jazz Coordinator, the **Solos & Duos Series** continues its season with a concert by drummer **Andrew Cyrille**, on Friday, October 18 at 8:00 pm. The Solos & Duos Series will be held on the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall stage.

“Andrew Cyrille is perhaps the pre-eminent free-jazz percussionist of the 1980s and '90s,” writes the All Music Guide. “Few jazz drummers play with a tenth of Cyrille's grace and authority. His energy is unflagging, his power absolute, tempered only by an ever-present sense of propriety.”

Mr. Cyrille began playing percussion in a drum and bugle corps in New York at the age of 11, and by 15 was playing in a trio with guitarist Eric Gale. He enrolled at Juilliard School of Music in 1958, and was soon working with such giants as Mary Lou Williams, Roland Kirk, and Coleman Hawkins. He recorded with Hawkins, as well as tenor saxophonist Bill Barron for the Savoy label, before succeeding Sunny Murray as Cecil Taylor's drummer in 1964. He stayed with the pianist until 1975, during which time he played on *Unit Structures* and other groundbreaking Taylor albums. During that period he played with many other top players, including Marion Brown, Grachan Moncur III and Jimmy Giuffre. He also served for a time as artist in residence at Antioch College and recorded a solo percussion album, *What About?* (BYG, 1969). Mr. Cyrille, Rashid Ali, and Milford Graves collaborated on a series of mid-'70s concerts entitled "Dialogue of the Drums." Beginning in 1975 and lasting into the '80s, Mr. Cyrille, whom The New York Times has called “the consummate modern drummer”, led his own group, Maono, which included the tenor saxophonist David S. Ware and trumpeter Ted Daniel. During this time Mr. Cyrille also played with The Group, a band that included the violinist Billy Bang, bassist Sirone, altoist Brown, and trumpeter Ahmed Abdullah. Mr. Cyrille has accompanied many notable dancer-choreographers, and has worked ubiquitously as a sideman with, among others, John Carter, Muhal Richard Abrams and Jimmy Lyons.

The Solos & Duos Series concludes November 20, with a concert by pianist **Ran Blake**. Tickets are $10 and $5 (students), and are available through the Fine Arts Center box office, 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS.

The Solos & Duos Series is made possible by: Massachusetts Cultural Council, Student Affairs Cultural Enrichment Fund, UMass Arts Council, UMass Alumni Association, Residential Arts and Augusta Savage Gallery.