

# Puzzle of Light provides a unique artistic experience

**Performance artists, with the help of the Meredith community, combine music, art and dance to create a dazzling performance.**

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Staff Reporter

The artistic group Puzzle of Light held a demonstration and a lecture in Jones Auditorium on April 4 about how their instruments are played, what they are called, and where they are from.

They said the giant gongs, for example, are actually giant fan parts donated to the group, and the strings on the other instrument were made from piano wires and air craft cables. The three most prominent instruments, the kalimbas, were created out of metal and have giant tines screwed in to create different tones when struck by a mallet.

Group member Michael Bashaw demonstrated that if you wet one of the rubber mallets and run it along the side of the kalimba it would make a sound similar to that of the humpback whale.

The kalimbas are among many other instruments that Bashaw has created for the group's "new age" sound. Another very intricate instrument is the glowbow, a large steel basin flanked by strings on each side. The glowbow can be played with a bow, or a container of water run across the strings. Besides using these larger instruments, the members of the group also demonstrated how they used other instruments like a glass flue.

Near the end of the



**Puzzle of Light demonstrates its wide variety of instruments.  
Photo by Julie Stansbury**

demonstration, Puzzle of Light performed an improvisational piece by interpreting images created by graphic design students that were projected onto a large backdrop behind the instruments. And, after answering several questions from the crowd, Bashaw assured the audience that there would be more to come with the performance on Saturday.

As Meredith students and members of the community packed into Jones Auditorium on Saturday and braced for the over two-hour performance,

things got started when students of Carol Finley's dance class paraded down the aisles clad all in white, carrying large poles topped with colorful streamers.

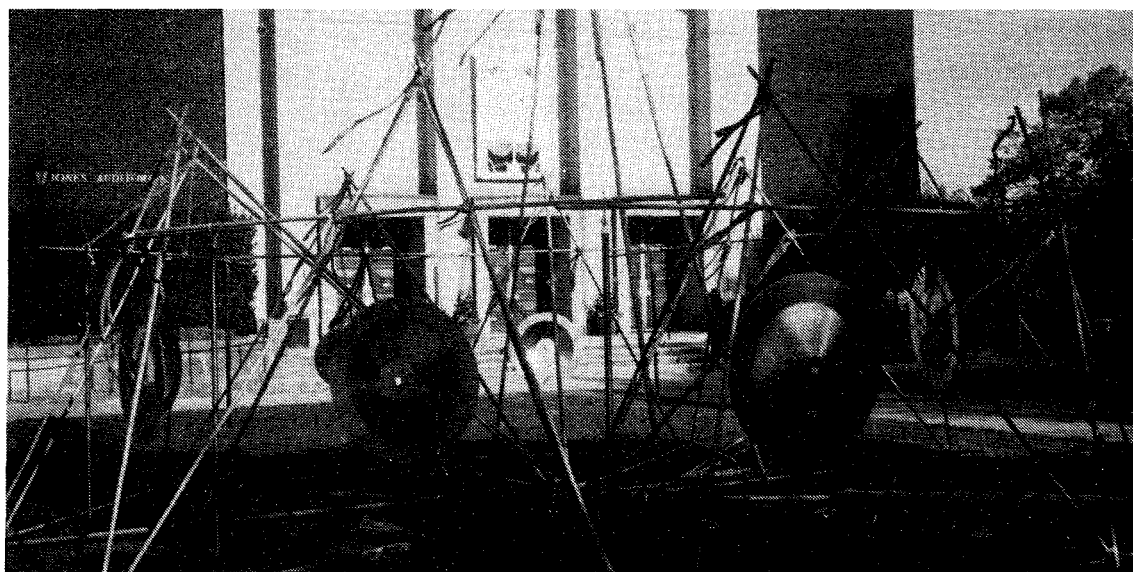
When the dancers had exited, the music began. Puzzle of Light performed mostly pieces from their CD *Falling Water*.

The second half of the performance showed off some of Meredith's talents as Finley's dance class came out once again, this time performing a dance to the song "Crescent Moon." The Chorus and Chorale also got into the act,

singing along with "Gone," a song about endangered species. "Prayer for Peace" and an improvisation were the last compositions performed.

Afterward, many students said that they really enjoyed the overall performance, and banged on the sound sculpture before departing.

"I liked the way the group built their own instruments," said junior Laura Bates. "Their performance showed dedication."



**The sound sculpture outside Jones Auditorium constructed by the group.  
Photo by Julie Stansbury**

## Attention Seniors!!

**Do you have special Meredith memories that you want to share with the campus? The *Herald* will print a "senior memories" section in its last issue of the semester on April 30. If you would like to submit a special memory, e-mail it to the *Herald* at [herald@meredith.edu](mailto:herald@meredith.edu) by April 25. Please keep your submission to 1-2 sentences and keep in mind that we may not be able to print everything that we receive.**