



DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Sunday, May 31, 2026 • 1:00 PM

AMY LEE

Graduate Recital

Murray and Michele Allen Recital Hall
2330 North Halsted Street • Chicago

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Allen Recital Hall

AMY LEE, PERCUSSION

Graduate Recital

PROGRAM

Elliott Carter (1908–2012)

Eight Pieces for Four Timpani, V. Improvisation (1949)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Lute Suite in E minor, BWV 996: Prelude & Presto; Gigue (c. 1710)

Iannis Xenakis (1922–2001)

Rebonds A (1987–1989)

Antônio Carlos Jobim (1927–1994); arr. Gary Burton

O Grande Amor (1960)

Aleo Esparza, percussion

- Intermission -

Elden "Buster" Bailey (1922–2004)

Two Sticks in Search of a Waltz (1963)

Joseph Schwantner (b. 1943)

Velocities (1990)

Gene Koshinski (b. 1980)

Dance of the Drums

Tae McLoughlin, percussion

Amy Lee is from the studios of Eric Millstein and Cynthia Yeh. This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the degree Master of Music.

As a courtesy to those around you, please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices. Flash photography is not permitted.

PROGRAM NOTES

Elliott Carter (1908–2012)

Eight Pieces for Four Timpani, V. Improvisation (1949)

Duration: 4 minutes

Eight Pieces for Four Timpani by Elliott Carter is a landmark work in the solo timpani repertoire, composed in 1949 and revised in 1966. Each movement explores a different character and technical challenge, expanding the expressive and sonic possibilities of the instrument. The fifth movement, "Improvisation," is characterized by its free, spontaneous style. Despite its title, the piece is fully notated, but it imitates the unpredictability and fluidity of improvisatory playing. The performer navigates shifting rhythms, subtle pitch changes using pedal technique, and contrasting textures, creating an expressive and highly personal musical narrative. The work reflects Carter's interest in rhythmic complexity and timbral nuance.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Lute Suite in E minor, BWV 996: Prelude & Presto; Gigue (c. 1710)

Duration: 6 minutes

Originally written for lute, The Suite in E Minor, BWV 996, is one of Bach's most idiomatic works for plucked string instrument, characterized by its clarity of texture and contrapuntal writing. The Prelude begins in a free, improvisatory style before transitioning into a lively Presto section driven by continuous motion. The Gigue concludes the suite with energetic rhythms and dance-like character, highlighting Bach's mastery of Baroque dance forms. In marimba performance, the piece takes on a new timbral dimension, requiring careful voicing and articulation to convey the implied polyphony and sustain.

Iannis Xenakis (1922–2001)

Rebonds A (1987–1989)

Duration: 8 minutes

Rebonds A by Iannis Xenakis is a landmark solo percussion work that explores raw energy, architectural rhythm, and physical intensity. Written as part of *Rebonds* (A and B), this movement focuses on a fixed instrumentation and a highly structured rhythmic language built from additive processes and irregular groupings. Unlike traditional melodic development, the piece emphasizes timbre, density, and layered rhythmic cells, creating a driving and visceral musical experience. The performer must navigate extreme contrasts in dynamics and articulation while maintaining precision and momentum.

Antônio Carlos Jobim (1927–1994); arr. Gary Burton

O Grande Amor (1960)

Duration: 4 minutes

O Grande Amor is a bossa nova composition by Antônio Carlos Jobim, one of the defining figures of Brazilian popular music. The piece is known for its lyrical melody, subtle harmonic richness, and relaxed rhythmic feel characteristic of the bossa nova style. In vibraphone performance—particularly through the interpretive approach associated with Gary Burton—the work is often treated with a jazz improvisational sensibility, blending lyrical phrasing with harmonic exploration. The arrangement highlights the vibraphone’s ability to sustain melodic lines while shaping harmonic color.

Elden “Buster” Bailey (1922–2004)

Two Sticks in Search of a Waltz (1963)

Duration: 3 minutes

Two Sticks in Search of a Waltz by E. B. Bailey is a solo xylophone piece that blends technical agility with a playful, dance-inspired character. As the title suggests, the work humorously frames itself as a “search” for a waltz, moving through rhythmic and stylistic gestures that evoke, fragment, and occasionally hint at the traditional triple meter dance.

Joseph Schwantner (b. 1943)

Velocities (1990)

Duration: 9 minutes

Velocities by Joseph Schwantner is a virtuosic solo percussion work that showcases extreme rhythmic energy, precision, and color. Written for solo percussionist, the piece explores rapid shifts in tempo, dynamics, and articulation, creating a sense of constant motion. The work is highly demanding, requiring advanced fourmallet technique. Schwantner’s writing emphasizes brilliance of sound and theatrical intensity, making it a cornerstone of modern solo percussion repertoire.

Gene Koshinski (b. 1980)

Dance of the Drums

Duration: 6 minutes

Gene Koshinski’s *Dance of the Drums* is an energetic and rhythmically driven percussion duet that emphasizes interaction and coordination between two performers. The piece explores layered rhythmic patterns, physical choreography, and dynamic contrast, creating a sense of continuous motion and intensity. Koshinski’s writing combines technical precision with theatrical performance elements, making the work both visually engaging and musically exciting.

Notes by Amy Lee