

Matthew Coley :: Marimba, Percussion, Dulcimer Artist :: Soloist and Collaborator ::

Somewhere along the way, **Matthew Coley** has found himself uncovering the secrets to being a kinetic sound artist. With a keen sense for turning movement energy into sound or creative energy, Matthew was not only able to have a professional modern dance career in Chicago bringing him to perform alongside the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, at the Harris Theatre for Music and Dance, and in an Olympic-sized drained swimming pool, but he has also been successful at entertaining audiences performing on any percussion instrument. As a kinetic sound artist, he has won marimba competitions, published compositions, performed multi-percussion concertos, been featured as a cimbalom and dulcimer artist, and soloed as a glass percussionist.

Matthew performs regularly as a soloist throughout the US and Europe, and has performed with such entities as the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival, San Francisco Sinfonietta, Millennium Chamber Players, Moldavian Philharmonic and Tele-Radio Orchestras, and Kurpfälzisches Kammerorchester Mannheim. He has also been featured three times on Chicago's WFMT Classical Radio Station and in a feature article in Time Out Chicago Magazine.

Matthew is frequently presenting concerts and master classes at universities, and has visited universities and other institutions in over 15 states, as well as Denmark, Germany, Moldova, and Sweden. Matthew also released a solo marimba album in 2010 entitled "Circularity" that has already received very positive and bountiful praise. Jason Baker wrote, "I found this CD to be one of the most enjoyable marimba recordings in recent memory due to its exciting repertoire, world-class performing, and extremely high production quality", in Percussive Notes, September 2011.

Matthew is very passionate about the symbiosis of dance and music and has collaborated with Co'Motion Dance Theatre, Thodos Dance Chicago, and Dance in the Parks. In 2004 he began his own collaborative group called SONIC INERTIA, which is a forum for the synthesis of dance, live music, and electronic media. This work has spawned his largest collaboration called CLEARLY, which is a multi-media dance, music, video, and design installation inspired by all glass percussion instruments.

In addition to marimba and percussion, Matthew spends much of his musical time performing on dulcimer and cimbalom. To this effect, much of Matthew's work has been committed to expanding the contemporary repertoire for the dulcimer and percussion, and he has commissioned and premiered over 25 marimba, percussion, or dulcimer works. Additionally, Matthew has premiered concertos by Bjorn Berkhout, Lynn Glassock, Ghenadie Ciobanu, Marcin Błażewicz, and Andrew Ardizzoia.

In 2008 Matthew placed in the top three at the prestigious 5th World Marimba Competition Stuttgart, and is the first American to ever place in this competition. In 2005 he placed third in the Minnesota Orchestra Young Artist Competition, and in 2000 won first in the Music Teachers National Association Solo Percussion Competition and the Percussive Arts Society International Marimba Concerto Competition. He has received numerous other awards throughout his career, as well as grant awards from the City of Chicago Cultural Arts Assistance Program, Illinois Arts Council, and Iowa Arts Council.

Matthew is currently professor of percussion at Iowa State University, and holds degrees from Northwestern University and the University of North Texas. He is endorsed by Marimba One, Innovative Percussion, and Sabian Cymbals, and published by Innovative Percussion and Edition Svitzer. He can be found on the web at www.hearmatthewcoley.com.

CONCERTO PERFORMANCES

CONCERTS/ MASTERCLASSES

Matthew Coley :: Marimba, Percussion, Dulcimer Artist
:: Soloist and Collaborator ::

- Iowa State University Wind Ensemble, 2012
- Brigham Young University New Music Ensemble, 2011
- Iowa State University Symphony Orchestra, 2011
- Chicago Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, 2011
- McHenry County Youth Orchestra, 2010
- Iowa State University Symphony Orchestra, 2010
- Moldavian Philharmonic Orchestra, 2009
- Millennium Chamber Players, 2009
- San Francisco Sinfonietta Orchestra, 2008
- Sherwood Symphony Orchestra of Chicago, 2008
- Moldavian Teleradio Symphony Orchestra, 2008
- Kurpfälzisches Kammerorchester Mannheim, 2008
- Northwestern University Percussion Ensemble, 2002, 2007, and 2008
- Northwestern University Contemporary Music Ensemble, 2008
- Third Coast Percussion Quartet, 2008
- Texas Christian University Wind Ensemble, 2000
- Brigham Young University, 2011
- Carl Nielsen Academy of Music, Odense, Denmark, 2011
- University of Northern Iowa, 2011
- St. Cloud University, 2011
- University of Nebraska-Omaha, 2010
- Louisiana State University, 2010
- University of Wisconsin-Parkside, 2009
- Academy of Music, Chisinau, Moldova, 2009
- University of Virginia, 2009
- Longwood University, 2009
- Virginia Commonwealth University, 2009
- University of Maryland, 2009
- University of Colorado, 2008
- Virginia Commonwealth University, 2008
- Academy of Music, Chisinau, Moldova, 2008
- Conservatory of Music, Stuttgart, Germany, 2008
- University of North Texas, 2008
- University of Wisconsin-Parkside, 2008
- University of Kansas, 2007
- University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, 2007
- Loyola University of Chicago, 2006
- University of Chicago, 2005

PRESS

Matthew Coley :: Marimba, Percussion, Dulcimer Artist :: Soloist and Collaborator ::

"Matthew is an outstanding musician with technique that will make your jaw drop combined with a musical sensitivity and understanding for what he plays." –Russell Vinick; conductor, Chicago Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, McHenry County Youth Orchestras, Lakeview Symphony Orchestra

"Your performance of Khan Variations is wonderful. It has polyphonic clarity, rhythmic precision and pace. Balancing these three aspects is -in my opinion- essential in this piece and your performance achieves just that. Congratulations!" –Alejandro Viñao, composer

"His speed and accuracy always astounds me even when the technical aspects of the music seem insurmountable. Yet he never loses the sense of the music, and has a gifted ear with regards to expressive details and nuance of sound. He commits to the music whole heartedly, and this can be seen in the dynamic and exciting physicality that is also part of his performances. It is not surprising that he also excels at dance and choreography, as he views movement to be central to his vision of music." –Bjorn Berkhout; composer, Queensborough Community College

"It's just great performing and recording with such an outstanding professional as Matthew Coley. He gathered a wonderful group of musicians and we rocked!" –Barbara Haffner; cellist, Lyric Opera of Chicago

"Matthew Coley is a virtuoso musician who possesses an enormous intellectual and emotional range whether performing on the marimba or any number of other instruments. Highly recommended!" –James Ross; percussionist, Chicago Symphony Orchestra

"I would say that Matthew Coley's personality irradiates something warm, friendly and at the same time very aristocratic. He's a young, clever and brilliant star that is rapidly gaining international recognition. Musicians working with him, feel that they are creating together something very valuable, distinctive and unique. It's a direct result from Matthew's versatility as marimba, dulcimer and percussion player, his skills as composer, experience in programming concerts, and also his rich background in dance and choreography. It's a blessing for us to have such an outstanding musician!" –Daniel Galay; composer, Israel

"I still remember Matthew's wonderful performance of my Concerto. I think that he played it just as I had imagined it before. Matthew showed a great virtuosity and an outstanding musicality. He is just a perfect artist." –Marcin Błażewicz; composer, Fryderyk Chopin Academy of Music

*"The Concerto for marimba and orchestra of Jorge Sarmientos performed by the American virtuoso, Matthew Coley became an effective and incendiary episode of the opening of the festival".
-from "Sources of Life" Newspaper, Chisinau, Moldova, nr. 11, 2008, p. 12]*

AWARDS

CONTACT INFO

Matthew Coley :: Marimba, Percussion, Dulcimer Artist :: Soloist and Collaborator ::

- Third Place, **5th World Marimba Competition**, Stuttgart, Germany, 2008 (first American to ever place in this competition)
- **Illinois Arts Council** Artstour Roster Performer, 2007-2009
- Recipient of a **Northwestern University School of Music European Travel Grant**, 2008, 2009
- Recipient of a **Special Assistance Grant, Illinois Arts Council**, 2006, 2008
- Recipient of a **Community Arts Assistance Program Grant**, City of Chicago, 2006, 2008
- Third place, **WAMSO Young Artist Competition**, Minnesota Orchestra, 2005
- **Finalist and semi-finalist, Houston Symphony Ima Hogg Young Artist Competition**, 2004, 2005
- Winner of the Percussive Arts Society **Marimba Concerto Competition**, 2000
- **Percussionist of the Year**, University of North Texas, Denton, TX, 2001
- **National winner**, Music Teacher's National Association **Solo Percussion Competition**, 2000
- Percussion winner for the **Yamaha Young Performing Artist Award**, 1999
- Greensboro Music Teachers Association **Music Scholarship**, NC, 1999
- Euterpe Club of Greensboro **Music Scholarship**, NC, 1999
- **Second place**, Marimba Marching Percussion Competition, PASIC, Atlanta, GA, 1998
- Recipient of the **A.J. Fletcher Music Scholarship**, East Carolina University, Greensboro, NC, 1997

Studio Addresses:

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UPCOMING PROJECTS

Matthew Coley :: Marimba, Percussion, Dulcimer Artist :: Soloist and Collaborator ::

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American Folk Concerto Project :: a contemporary percussion concerto based on traditions and tunes of American Folk music.

Bjorn Berkhout, composer :: www.bjornb.com

- I. Hammer Dulcimer
- II. 4-octave Bowed Psaltery, Spoons, Bodhrán, Washboard
- III. "Barn Yard" Drum Set; Buckets, Tin Cans, Water Pale, Wood Box, Gas Cans, Saw Blades, Wood Planks, Feed Trough, Clay Pots, etc.

Dr. Berkhout received his Doctorate in Composition in 2003 at Northwestern University where he was awarded the Faricy Award for Creative Music. Dr. Berkhout was awarded 2nd Prize in the 2006 Gustav Mahler Composition Contest for his work Eclipse, which was premiered July 27th in Viktring, Austria by the Janus Ensemble Vienna. In 2004 he was the winner of the Omaha Symphony Guild's International Composition Contest for his work REM, a Lucid Dream Fantasy for solo cello and two chamber orchestras, which was premiered by the Omaha Symphony in 2005. His work Zapstar was one of six works selected from over 230 submissions for the ALEA III 2003 International Composers Contest and his composition Visual Sound, which had its premier in Amsterdam, was nominated for the Gaudeamus Prize 2000. Dr. Berkhout currently serves as Assistant Professor of Music at Queensborough Community College, part of the CUNY system.

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The New Percussion Concerto Project :: a contemporary percussion concerto written to showcase the unique collection of instruments Matthew performs with. This project seeks to also feature unique percussion with different instrumental chamber groups from the orchestra, giving the concerto a new voice in the full orchestra concert, and allowing movements of the piece to live in chamber music settings.

Andrew Ardizzoia, composer :: www.andrewardizzoia.info

- I. Glass with Percussion Quartet; 3-octave Glass Xylophone, 2-octave Glass Bottle-phone, 1-octave of Glass Gongs, and assorted Vases, Bowls, Glasses, Plate Glass, and Wind Chimes
- II. Zithers with Pierrot Quintet (Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Piano); 4-octave Hammer Dulcimer, 4-octave Bowed Psaltery, 4.5-octave Cymbalom
- III. Wood, Glass, and Zithers with Full Orchestra; 10 Temple Blocks, 10-12 Woodblocks, 6 Log Drums, and assorted Wooden Instruments

Andrew Ardizzoia's compositions have been featured on programs at Arizona State University, The Ohio State University, the University of Oregon, Otterbein College, the Phoenix Art Museum, Scottsdale Community College, Paradise Valley Community College, Chandler-Gilbert Community College, the Idyllwild Summer Program, as well as solo recitals in California and Arizona. Recent performances have included the premiere of **Some Assembly Required* by the Iowa State University Symphony Orchestra, *Three Blake Choruses* at Northern Arizona University, performances of *Roadtrip Sunrise* by bands across North America, *"This Primordial, Threatening Noise..."* at the University of Victoria, the *Études du Désert* at major saxophone conferences in Asia and the United States, and the first performances of the *Modular Suite* for horn and piano in Arizona, New Mexico, and the annual conference of the International Horn Society in Brisbane, Australia. He has received numerous awards and commissions including the Presser Foundation Award. Andrew holds the Master of Music in composition from Arizona State University and the Bachelor of Music in composition from the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music.

REPERTOIRE

Matthew Coley :: Marimba, Percussion, Dulcimer Artist **:: Soloist and Collaborator ::**

CONCERTO

Concerto for Marimba, Woodblocks, and Orchestra
:: Bjorn Berkhout

Concerto Rustico for Marimba and String Orchestra
:: Marcin Błażewicz

Concertino for Marimba and Orchestra
:: Paul Creston

Concerto for Marimba and String Orchestra
:: Eric Ewazen

Concerto for Percussion and Wind Ensemble
:: Lynn Glassock

Dragon of Wyckham (Solo Marimba and Wind Ensemble)
:: Raymond Helble

Concerto for Marimba and Strings
:: Peter Klatzow

Concerto for Marimba and Orchestra
:: Anders Koppell

Concerto for Marimba and Orchestra
:: Robert Kurka

Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra
:: John Mackey

Concertino for Marimba and Orchestra
:: Jorge Sarmientos

CHAMBER or PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Journey for Marimba, Piano, and Percussion Ensemble (Octet)
:: Matthew Coley

Micro-Concerto (Percussion soloist, Violin, Flute, Clarinet, Cello, Piano)
:: Steve Mackey

Marimba Spiritual (Marimba soloist and 3 Percussionists)
:: Minoru Miki

Concerto for Darabukka and Percussion Quartet
:: Anthony Di Sanza

Tiger Dance (Marimba soloist and 4 Percussionists)
:: Jeffrey Smith

Labyrinth (Marimba soloist and 3 Percussionists)
:: Yevhen Stankovych

CIMBALOM and DULCIMER

Rhapsody No. 1 for Violin and Orchestra
:: Bela Bartok

Up Hill (Dulcimer, Vibraphone, Piano, Baritone-voice)
:: Bjorn Berkhout

Image, Reflection, Shadow (Cimbalom, Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Piano)
:: Peter Maxwell Davies

Amnesia Variance (Dulcimer, Violin, Viola, Cello, Clarinet/Bass Clarinet, Piano)
:: Lee Hyla

Háry János Suite
:: Zoltán Kodály
(Percussion Ensemble arrangement of Mvt. V. Intermezzo available from M. Coley)

Ragtime
:: Igor Stravinski

Renard
:: Igor Stravinski