



Matthew Amato, percussion

Watercolor Sun (2023) Ivan Trevino (b. 1983)
with Justin Respicio, Ben Jilbert, and Evan French

Tantrum (2011) Kevin Bobo (b. 1974)

Voodoo, Who Do? You Do (2022) Casey Cangelosi (b. 1982)

Dizzy (2025) Evan French (b. 2002)

INTERMISSION

Cartograph (2021) Andy Akiho (b. 1979)

Amazing Grace (1772) John Newton (1725-1807)
arr. by Matthew Amato

Sinking Deep (2013) Hillsong Young and Free
arr. by Matthew Amato
with Carol Hannah-Amato and Ethan Marker

Screeching Halt (2025) Matthew Amato (b. 1999)

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Percussion.
Matthew Amato is a student of Dr. Jordan Shippy.*

PROGRAM NOTES

Watercolor Sun was commissioned by the Grammy-winning ensemble, Third Coast Percussion. It was written for the quartet to perform on one single 4.3 octave marimba. "There are moments in life that create a feeling I can't quite describe. Like waking up in a sunlight room, or sharing a meal with old friends, or going on a road trip with someone you love. There's a jovial, euphoric feeling to it. I feel it when I catch the sunrise with my family, and I feel it when I play music too. Maybe it is gratitude, or peace, or something in between. Whatever this feeling is, it is at the heart of Watercolor Sun." - Ivan Trevino

Tantrum is an experimental composition for solo snare drum that was completed in the Summer of 2011. The piece contains four main sections and explores a wide range of tone colors on the instrument through the use of specified playing zones, special techniques that create a wide variety of timbres, and the extreme use of dynamics.

Voodoo, Who Do? You Do is a piece paired with a click track that is based around a children's piano toy, audibly speaking note names with each press of the key. The piece is written for two mallets and focuses on speed and note accuracy for the duration of the piece.

Dizzy is a solo timpani piece designed to musically evoke a sense of disorientation—for both the performer and the listener. It begins with a brief, wandering cadenza-like passage that quickly erupts into driving, syncopated rhythms, punctuated by exaggerated glissandi and other pedal-based effects. The chaos builds until it collapses into a suspended moment of stillness—the eye of the storm. But this calm is short-lived; the opening rhythms return with newfound urgency, spiraling out of control as the piece hurtles toward its violent end.

Cartograph. 19 Chromatic Resonant Metal Pipes [G#4 – D6], 4 Non-pitched Hanging Resonant Pipes, Kick Drum, 6 Glass Bottles (5 Ascending Bottles & 1 Isolated Bottle), Semi-Resonant Metal (eg. Metal Pitcher), Wooden Table/Cigar Box (or similar), Low Temple Block/Woodblock & 2 Matching High Woodblocks.....
Need I say more?

Amazing Grace may be the most well-known hymn across the world. A hymn that is universally recognized and often takes us back to a moment in time we are deeply connected to. When challenged with picking the pieces for my recital I was taken back to those moments and was reminded that my musical gifts come from God. And it is only through God's grace that I am able to lift up my talents and give them back to Him.

Sinking Deep is a song that is meant to represent Sinking into God's presence and allowing yourself to be overwhelmed by His love and grace. And what this piece does so well is allow us to be drawn deeper into the lyrics through the music and allows us to connect more deeply with God.

Screeching Halt- The title comes from this feeling that I have been running at a full sprint for years working towards a goal that at times felt like it was unachievable. And as I keep sprinting I am brought to a quick and abrupt halt..... But let's be honest..... It's a drum solo. Sit back and enjoy and thank you all for coming.