

MATCHSTICK PERCUSSION



Matchstick Percussion is a Maryland-based percussion quartet dedicated to new music and contributing to growing the percussion repertoire. We believe in helping to build equitable and diverse relations within the music community, and in time we look to help set the precedent of modern percussion repertoire.

Our mission is to:

- **Bridge** the gap in racial and gender inconsistencies and advocate for equity in musical and arts professions
- **Provide** resources to gain access to new music and gain an understanding of the inequity in the field
- **Collaborate** with artists of other mediums to create new and exciting experiences for our audience
- **Promote** opportunities for underrepresented artists and artists lacking favorable circumstances

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[Press Materials](#) | [Website](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

Sample Programs:

Strike Anywhere Our "Strike Anywhere" Initiative aims to broaden the repertoire by incorporating more inclusive and accessible instrumentation. Pieces under this Initiative are designed to be playable using compact instruments. We aspire to cultivate a more diverse musical landscape, enabling performances in non-traditional venues and facilitating participation by lower-income schools and ensembles due to the affordability of the instruments required.

Joshua Mallard - *Road Song**
Han Hitchen - *gentle autumn**
Jamie Koller - *Strands**
Tucker Johnson - *quads**
Kendall K. Williams - *Walk. March. Run.**
Amy Beth Kirsten - *may the devil take me*

2024-25 Concert Season

Delanie Molnar - *NEW WORK**
Jordan Chase - *under the aspect of eternity**
Paul Novak - *nothing moves in a straight line*
Juri Seo - *vv*
Ayanna Woods - *Triple Point*

Selected Repertoire List:

Alexis Lamb - *Matters/Mind*
Joe Moore III - *Spiritual Gifts*
Brian Graiser - *Listen**
Brianna Wiegand - *Periwinkle**
Elijah Daniel Smith - *Fragmented Effigies*
Emily McPherson - *it is what it always was*
Yaz Lancaster - *Sequoia*
Glenn Kotche - *Wild Sound*
Ben Hausman - *dirtybombs**
John Luther Adams - Three Drum Quartets from *Earth and the Great Weather*
Andy Akiho - *Karakurenai*
Jason Treuting - *Life is (___)*

* = written for Matchstick Percussion

Additional Offerings:

Masterclasses/Lectures

We offer a wide range of masterclasses and lectures for percussionists and student musicians including: solo and chamber music coachings, entrepreneurship in music, running an ensemble, and how to collaborate with composers and commission a new work.

Composer Readings/Recordings

We offer readings of works written for percussion quartet, trio, duos, and solo. Electronic and multimedia works are welcomed. We encourage composers to explore portable instrumentation for our Strike Anywhere initiative.

Recent Residencies and Concerts

March 2024	Maryland/Delaware Day of Percussion, Bowie, MD
October 2023	University of Delaware, Newark, DE
September 2023	Launch Party, Washington, D.C.
September 2023	Towson University, Towson, MD
September 2023	University of Maryland, College Park, MD
June 2023	Rhoneymeade Fest, Centre Hall, PA
March 2023	Penn State New Music Festival and Symposium, State College, PA - Guest Ensemble

Official Bio:

Matchstick Percussion is a Maryland-based percussion quartet dedicated to new music and expanding the percussion repertoire. Through performance, they aim to promote opportunity for underrepresented artists, bridge the gap in racial and gender inconsistencies, and advocate for equity in the medium through collaborative performances and educational outreach.

Over the past five years Matchstick Percussion has performed over thirty concerts across seven states and the District of Columbia, including concerts at Rhizome DC, St. Mark's Capitol Hill, Hidden Waters Mansion in Baltimore, Penn State University, Towson University, and Bowie State University. Matchstick Percussion has appeared as a featured group at several music festivals and events including the Penn State New-Music Festival Symposium, Rhoneymeade Festival in Centre County PA, and the Percussive Arts Society's Maryland/Delaware Chapter Day of Percussion. In 2022, they received a scholarship to participate as a pre-formed ensemble in the Sō Percussion Summer Institute at Princeton University.

In addition to solo concerts and festival appearances, Matchstick Percussion appeared with 21st Century Consort to perform and record John Luther Adams' *Earth and the Great Weather* at the Hirshhorn Museum in DC, and in collaboration with the Sō Percussion Summer Institute and the University of Michigan Percussion Studio, premiered and toured Michael Gordon's *Field of Vision* at Princeton University, Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, PS21: Performance Spaces for the 21st Century, and Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art for the Bang on a Can LOUD Weekend. Other notable collaborative performances include Open Music and Folx Percussion.

Dedicated to new music, Matchstick Percussion has commissioned and premiered eight new works for chamber percussion ensembles, most notably *Walk. March. Run.* by Kendall K. Williams with co-commissioners Sō Percussion, Sandbox Percussion, Bard College Conservatory, and the University of Akron Percussion Studio. Matchstick Percussion has released over a dozen recordings of lesser-known or new works by underrepresented composers, which can be found on their YouTube channel.

To fulfill the educational outreach portion of its mission, Matchstick Percussion has held a number of educational clinics at the high school and university level, including University of Delaware, University of Maryland, Towson University, Meade High School, Chesapeake High School, Patterson Mill High School, and Wakefield High School. These events are intended to expose students to a wide variety of percussion chamber music and provide them an opportunity to learn more about majoring in music or transitioning to the professional world.

Matchstick Percussion's newest project is a series of commissions titled Strike Anywhere. This initiative aims to expand the accessibility of the percussion repertoire by restricting instrumentation to portable, common instruments and objects. Through this new repertoire, they hope to reach new audiences by removing the limiting factors in choice of venue, as well as inspire audiences and expand their idea of what percussion music can be. The first round of

commissions for this project have been funded by the Racial Justice, Anti-Discrimination and Democratic Practices Creative Activity Grant through the College of Arts & Architecture at Penn State and include works by Joshua Mallard, Han Hitchen, Jamie Koller, and Tucker Johnson.

Matchstick Percussion proudly endorses Zildjian and Vic Firth products.

Individual Member Bios:

Ben Hausman (they/he) is a percussionist and composer based in the Maryland area. They are currently a graduate student at the University of Delaware, pursuing a Master of Music degree in percussion performance. Ben works closely with electronics in their own compositions and solo repertoire by heavily involving themselves with electroacoustic music, using both live electronic processing and fixed media. Their compositions have been performed at Princeton University, Radford University, University of Delaware, Penn State University, and Towson University.

Outside of solo performing, Ben is a founding member of Matchstick Percussion, a Maryland-based percussion quartet set to ignite creativity, celebrate inclusivity, and transform percussion repertoire. With Matchstick, Ben has performed alongside renowned ensembles such as the 21st Century Consort, Sō Percussion, and Sandbox Percussion. Through Matchstick Percussion collaborations, Ben has been a part of concert-length works including John Luther Adams' *Earth and the Great Weather* and the world premiere of Michael Gordon's *Field of Vision* alongside participants of the Sō Percussion Summer Institute and the University of Michigan percussion studio.

Ben is also an avid educator. For the past six years, they have consistently taught both marching and classical percussion to high school and college students. He has served as a drumline and front ensemble instructor for numerous high school programs including Meade High School, Perry Hall High School, Northeast High School, and Havre de Grace High School. As a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the percussion studio at the University of Delaware, Ben not only taught lessons and coached percussion ensemble, but also assisted in teaching the World Percussion class. In this position, Ben taught a wide range of musical styles including Brazilian, Arabic, West-African, and fusion styles of drumming. During their Bachelor's Degree at Towson University, Ben often coached peers in percussion ensemble, as well as serving as the principal percussionist of the Towson University Orchestra from Spring of 2020 until Spring of 2022.

Ben holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Percussion Performance from Towson University and their teachers include Gene Koshinski, Tim Broscious, Michelle Humphreys, Marsha Becker, Frank Russo, Jon Seligman, and Will Redman. Outside of music, Ben enjoys playing table-top board games, filmmaking, and playing rhythm video games.

Corey Sittinger (he/him) a Maryland-based percussionist, artist, and composer, known for his commanding stage presence while performing large-scale works such as *I-Ching*, *An Economy of Means*, 2020 by Johannes Steinbauer, and more. As a composer, he has written for a wide variety of ensembles including chamber ensembles, choirs, and percussion ensembles.

Corey is also a dedicated educator committed to nurturing the musicality and well-being of his students. Rooted in the belief that musicality and health are paramount, his teaching philosophy emphasizes the exploration of sound, gesture, and technique to achieve high levels of expression and control while fostering injury-free, healthy playing habits.

Throughout his career, Corey has played with notable groups such as the 21st Century Consort, DC Concert Orchestra, Arundel Vocal Arts Society, and Capitol City Symphony. He is a founding member of Matchstick Percussion, a Maryland-based percussion quartet dedicated to uplifting voices of underrepresented composers. The group actively commissions and collaborates with composers and artists, and tours their programs across the East Coast.

Corey holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance from Towson University and a Masters of Music from the University of Maryland, and finished his studies with a performers certificate from the Pennsylvania State University. His teachers include: Dr. Lee Hinkle, Dr. Michelle Humphreys, Mike Noonan, and Marsha Becker.

In his free time, Corey participates in triathlons as he strives to achieve the status of Ironman, and nurtures his creativity by engaging in both visual and literary arts.

Malcolm Taylor (he/him) is a percussionist, educator, and photographer based in Maryland. He is a strong advocate for new music and seeks to collaborate with composers, artists, and dancers from diverse backgrounds. He focuses on incorporating theatrical elements and technology with percussion music and creating interdisciplinary performances, most notably collaborating with the Towson University Theatre Department on the 2018 production of *Icarus at the Border: a meditation on monstrous appetites*. His current academic research is focused on Afro-Futurism aesthetics and techniques in percussion music.

Malcolm is a founding member of Matchstick Percussion, a Maryland-based percussion quartet dedicated to uplifting voices of underrepresented composers. The group actively commissions and collaborates with composers and artists and tours their programs across the East Coast. As a freelancer he has performed with the 21st Century Consort, New Orchestra of Washington, and the American Festival Pops Orchestra.

Focused on diversity, equity and inclusion in percussion, Malcolm serves as the Marketing Director on board of the Network for Diversity in Concert Percussion.

Malcolm holds a Bachelor's of Music degree in Music Performance from Towson University and a Masters of Music from Penn State University where he was the Percussion Graduate Teaching Assistant. He is currently pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at George Mason

University as a Presidential Scholar. His teachers include Dr. Michelle Humphreys, Dr. Lee Hinkle, Mike Noonan, Marsha Becker, Ronen Itzek, and John Spirtas.

Away from music, Malcolm enjoys cooking (and related videos), tasting new coffees and teas, and exploring computer programming and electronics.

Zach Wilson (he/him) is a Maryland-based performer and educator, specializing in chamber music, musical theater, and the marching arts. His love of new music has compelled him to commission and premiere over thirty new works for percussion. His current research interests include postminimalist percussion music as well as the niche intersection between voice and vibraphone.

Zach is the percussionist for Glass Trees, a Pierrot + percussion contemporary music ensemble, and is a founding member of Matchstick Percussion, a Maryland-based percussion quartet dedicated to new music and promoting works by underrepresented artists through commissioning, collaborative performance, and educational outreach. He debuted as a concerto soloist in 2019 with the Towson University Symphony Orchestra, and collaborated with the Towson University Theater Department as composer/performer for *Icarus at the Border*. As a freelancer, he has performed with renowned ensembles such as the New Orchestra of Washington, 21st Century Consort, Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra, and the Regenerate! Orchestra.

As an educator, Zach was the Graduate Assistant for the prestigious Penn State Blue Band, preparing the drumline for over a dozen shows and assisting in the 2023 Rose Bowl. He has also taught drumlines, front ensembles, visual, and drill for numerous high schools in Maryland. His students have received superb ratings at Maryland State Solo & Ensemble, successfully auditioned for state honor bands, and gone on to major in classical percussion and jazz performance.

Zach is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in percussion performance at the University of Maryland where he holds a Graduate Assistantship with the percussion studio. He received his Master of Music degree from Penn State University in 2023 and Bachelor of Music degree from Towson University in 2020. His teachers include Jon Bisesi, Lee Hinkle, Michelle Humphreys, and Marsha Becker. In his free time, Zach enjoys running, tea, puzzles, niche world history, and making custom sets of wind chimes.