



CAMERON LEACH

PERCUSSIONIST

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FULL BIO

American percussionist Cameron Leach is a bold performer recognized for his expressive virtuosity, musical athleticism, and daring interpretations. As a soloist and chamber musician, Leach has concertized in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia. He has appeared at some of the world's finest institutions, including the Royal Danish Academy of Music, Royal Northern College of Music, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Sibelius Academy, and the Norwegian Academy of Music, and notable halls such as the Meyerson Symphony Center, Lila Cockrell Theater, Ohio Theatre, Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre, and China's National Centre for the Performing Arts. Leach is the winner of both the Percussive Arts Society (PAS) International Solo Artist Competition and Yamaha Young Performing Artist Competition, and was awarded the prestigious Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music. He is a member of the Northern California-based percussion quartet Orphic Percussion, one half of the Leach | Peters Percussion Duo, and an Associate Musician with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. Leach formerly held a professorship at Kent State University's Hugh A. Glauser School of Music, and now teaches primarily as a guest artist at universities across the United States. Leach proudly endorses Black Swamp Percussion, Beetle Percussion, Sabian Cymbals, Rustic Percussion, and Mallettech.

"Leach is a major talent! his performance of my Percussion Concerto was outstanding...full of power and grace!"

JENNIFER HIGDON

PULITZER PRIZE AND THREE-TIME GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING COMPOSER

Leach's 2020-2021 season, though inevitably impacted by COVID-19, is marked by world premieres of two new percussion concertos. In March 2021, Leach collaborates with the New Albany Symphony Orchestra on a new concerto by award-winning composer Adam Roberts, commissioned by the Johnstone Fund for New Music. Shortly thereafter, he will serve as the Marjorie Bruce Holland Artist-in-Residence for ÆPEX Contemporary Performance, culminating in the premiere of a new chamber concerto by Garrett Schumann. Other bookings and residencies for the season are tentative as health guidelines continue to change. Looking ahead to 2021-2022, Leach will perform a Daytime Showcase Concert at the 2021 Percussive Arts Society International Convention—the world's largest annual percussion festival—in addition to making his concerto debut with the Longmont Symphony Orchestra.



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Highlights from recent seasons include recital appearances in Beijing, Nuremberg, San Francisco, Orlando, Houston, Columbus, and Portland, as well as artist residencies at the Space City New Music Festival, MalletLab Summer Intensive, TUTTI Festival at Denison University, and Purdue University Fort Wayne. Leach has performed on series such as the Eastman Summer Concert Series, Old First Concerts, New Music at Short North Stage, CLICK Series at Ohio University, Rochester Fringe Festival, and the SPLICE Festival. An artist with a strong online presence, Leach addressed the COVID-19 lockdown with an array of digital concerts, guest lectures, and home studio collaborations, culminating in the first performance of the virtual concert series, Culture in the Time of Corona, presented by Streetlight Guild and the Johnstone Fund for New Music.

Notably, Leach's latest concerto debut with the Dallas Winds was broadcast on American Public Media's Performance Today, America's most popular classical music radio program. Other concerto highlights include performances with the Eastman Wind Ensemble, Euclid Symphony Orchestra, and McConnell Arts Center Chamber Orchestra, plus world premieres of two new concertos: Dave Maric's SPIEL, commissioned by Capital University, and Durwynne Hsieh's Prelude and Cartoon, commissioned by Otterbein University. Additionally, he has been featured as a guest artist at more than thirty universities over the last two years.

Devoted to the creation and performance of new music, Leach continues to commission diverse works for solo percussion, with a special focus on electroacoustic and theatrical music. To that end, he frequently leads large-scale commissioning consortiums to fund these projects, having now brought together more than 150 percussionists from around the world in this collaborative process. Having premiered nearly 40 new pieces in recent seasons, Leach's latest commissions include works by Emmanuel Séjourné, David Skidmore, Ivan Trevino, Nick Werth, Vera Stanojevic, Linda Kernohan, Paul Pinto, and Matt Curlee.

In addition to his work as a concert artist, Leach has a strong background in marching percussion, having won world titles with the Blue Devils Drum & Bugle Corps and Rhythm X. He also hosts The Cameron Leach Podcast, a new audio/video experience featuring both guest interviews and solo episodes, offering additional insights into the life of a touring soloist. Project Percussion, his most recent endeavor, is an online platform dedicated to percussion education, facilitating grassroots commissioning consortiums, and building community.

Find out more at cleachmusic.com.

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CONCERTO REPERTOIRE & CONCERT PROGRAMS

Leach's concerto repertoire includes works written for full orchestra, chamber/string orchestra, and wind ensemble, as well as several of his own commissions. In addition, he offers the following solo programs:

Synthesis, a solo recital including acoustic, electroacoustic, and theatrical works;

ELISION, a show comprised entirely of music for percussion + electronics;

Discovering Percussion, an interactive, exploratory program with low gear needs; and

Seven Short Stories, a specialty program of percussion theatre.

Custom programs can be tailored to the artistic vision or logistical needs of a presenter.

Leach also offers chamber music programs with his percussion quartet and duo projects:

Orphic Percussion - cleachmusic.com/orphicpercussion.

Leach | Peters Duo - cleachmusic.com/leachpetersduo.

"Cameron Leach is one of the brightest new soloists on the percussion circuit. The Eastman Wind Ensemble and I were extremely inspired by his performance of the Higdon Concerto, and we look forward to a longstanding relationship with this exciting, rising star!"

DR. MARK DAVIS SCATTERDAY
MUSIC DIRECTOR, EASTMAN WIND ENSEMBLE



CAMERON LEACH

CONCERTO REPERTOIRE

Kalevi Aho

Sieidi

full orchestra

John Corigliano

Conjurer

string orchestra, optional brass

Avner Dorman

Frozen in Time

full orchestra

Peter Eötvös

Speaking Drums

full orchestra

Jennifer Higdon

Percussion Concerto

full orchestra or wind ensemble



PERCUSSION CONCERTO - Jennifer Higdon

Performed in Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre, February 21, 2018.

Durwynne Hsieh*

Prelude and Cartoon

chamber winds or wind ensemble

James MacMillan

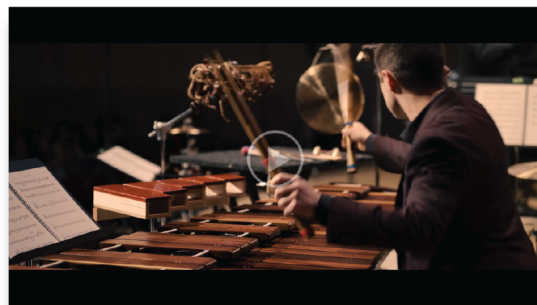
Veni Veni Emmanuel

full orchestra

Dave Maric*

SPIEL

wind ensemble + electronics



SPIEL - Dave Maric

Commissioned by Capital University, premiered March 29-30, 2019.

Kevin Puts

Marimba Concerto

chamber orchestra

Adam Roberts*

Percussion Concerto

full orchestra

Christopher Rouse

Der gerettete Alberich

full orchestra

Garrett Schumann*

Percussion Concerto

chamber ensemble

Joseph Schwantner

Concerto for Percussion

full orchestra or wind ensemble

Emmanuel Séjourné

Concerto for Marimba

string orchestra or wind ensemble

Michael Torke

Mojave

full orchestra, wind ensemble, or string quartet

**Written for Leach*

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SYNTHESIS

full length solo recital with intermission

Synthesis is Leach's solo recital program, made up of pieces representing the very best of the modern percussion repertoire. The program's title comes from the combination of key elements within the show—some contrasting, and some complimentary—which define the performance. Percussion meets theatre, acoustic and electronic sounds combine, and serious art battles comedic shtick in a diverse, exploratory program that keeps the audience engaged from beginning to end. Leach will speak from the stage during the first half of **Synthesis**, whereas the second half is presented continuously.

TITLE OF WORK

Tchik
Blues for Gilbert
Karnataka*
Elements
Le corps à corps

COMPOSER

Nicolas Martynciow
Mark Glentworth
Emmanuel Séjourné
Stephen Karukas
Georges Aperghis

INSTRUMENTATION

snare drum + voice
vibraphone
marimba*
setup
hand drum + theatre + voice

- intermission -

Originating Within*
63 Across 81 Down*
Trilogy
Ceci n'est pas une balle

Nick Werth
Ancel Neeley
Dave Maric
Alexandre Esperet

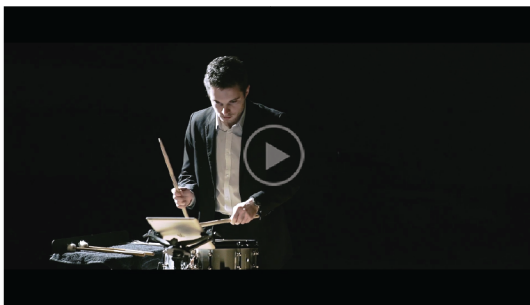
setup + theatre*
drum set*
large setup*
body percussion + theatre*

**written for Leach*

**includes electronics*

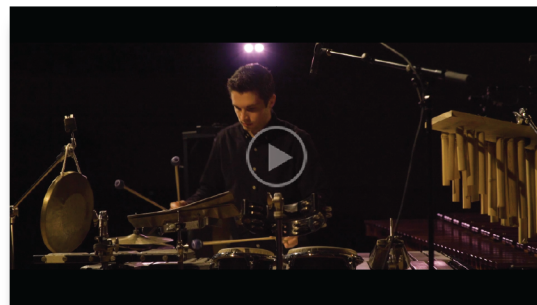
STAGE PLOT

TECH RIDER



TCHIK - Nicolas Martynciow

Tchik is a snare drum solo that journeys through the musical styles of many different countries, merging improvisation, spoken word, and a variety of unique timbres into an entertaining audience experience.



TRILOGY (MVT. 1 - CONCENTRICS) - Dave Maric

Trilogy draws heavily from different styles of electronic dance music, requiring the performer to athletically navigate a large setup.

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ELISION

full length electroacoustic show with intermission

A cutting-edge program brimming with innovative sounds, **ELISION** takes the audience on an exhilarating journey through the sonic landscape of electroacoustic percussion music. The performance focuses on the relationship between live and recorded sounds, which interact in different ways to expand the timbral capabilities of acoustic instruments. The electronics take on many roles throughout the program, by working cooperatively with, in opposition to, or completely independent of the performer. This fluctuating duality is precisely what defines the production, presenting twists and turns through moments of musical athleticism, comedy, and repose. The second half of **ELISION** is presented continuously.

TITLE OF WORK

COMPOSER

INSTRUMENTATION

I Leave You the Real World (I. True/False)*
Karnataka*
Broken Mirrors*
Trilogy (II. Pelogy & III. Tamboo)

David Skidmore
Emmanuel Séjourné
Vera Stanojevic
Dave Maric

vibraphone*
marimba*
snare drum*
large setup*

- intermission -

Not a Haiku
Originating Within*
63 Across 81 Down*
Decay No. 2*
Ceci n'est pas une balle

Rob McClure
Nick Werth
Ancel Neeley
Matt Curlee
Alexandre Esperet

setup*
setup + theatre*
drum set*
large setup*
body percussion + theatre*

**written for Leach*

**includes electronics*

STAGE PLOT

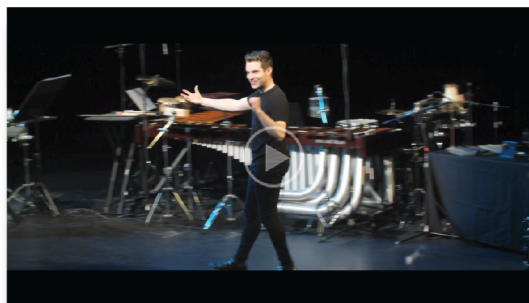
TECH RIDER

"Cameron Leach represents the best of the next generation's superstar performers. Captivating, engaging, and virtuosic—Leach is a musical force!"

DR. TODD MEEHAN

FOUNDER, LIQUIDRUM

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PERCUSSION & HEAD
OF INSTRUMENTAL STUDIES, BAYLOR UNIVERSITY



CECI N'EST PAS UNE BALLE - *Compagnie Kablua*

A theatrical interplay between an electronic track and soloist, featuring an invisible bouncy ball and comedic choreography—a true crowdpleaser.

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DISCOVERING PERCUSSION

one hour interactive recital without intermission

An accessible, engaging, and bite-sized concert program, **Discovering Percussion** is a great first introduction to the wonderful world of percussion. This performance features works written for all of the main percussion instruments, offering a smorgasbord of sounds for new and experienced listeners alike. Combining formal performance elements with a casual vibe, Leach interacts with the audience throughout the show, discussing the works to be performed, the instruments themselves, and fielding questions as they arise. **Discovering Percussion** can be adapted for a variety of audiences (including young children), with substitutions or length adjustments as needed.

Selections to be chosen from the repertoire listed below, depending on venue, audience, tour schedule, tech specifications, gear availability, and presenter's wishes:

<u>TITLE OF WORK</u>	<u>COMPOSER</u>	<u>INSTRUMENTATION</u>
Tchik	Nicolas Martyniciow	snare drum
Blues for Gilbert	Mark Glentworth	vibraphone
Immigrant Song	Ivan Trevino	marimba
Elements	Stephen Karukas	setup
Over the Rainbow	Robert Oetomo	marimba
Le corps à corps	Georges Aperghis	hand drum + theatre + voice
Ceci n'est pas une balle	Alexandre Esperet	body percussion + theatre*
Karnataka*	Emmanuel Séjourné	marimba*
I Leave You the Real World (I.)	David Skidmore	vibraphone*
63 Across 81 Down*	Ancel Neeley	drum set*

**written for Leach*

**includes electronics*

STAGE PLOT

TECH RIDER



Leach performing for middle school students during a contemporary music-themed presentation of *Discovering Percussion*.



Leach speaking from the stage about his newly commissioned electroacoustic solo pieces, during the premiere of *ELISION*.

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SEVEN SHORT STORIES

one hour percussion theatre show without intermission

Seven Short Stories is a collection of theatrical pieces for speaking/acting percussionist, each portraying different emotions, characters, and ideas for an audience-centered performance that breaks down the fourth wall. Biggie Smalls samples meet sandwich-making, a Persian hand drum tells the story of a tragic racing accident, and an "invisible" bouncy ball will make its final reveal in this eclectic program that blurs the lines between theatrical production and solo recital.

CONTENT WARNING: Some pieces on the program contain explicit language, and others touch on subject matter that may be sensitive to some viewers, including toxic masculinity, emotional abuse, and suicide. The intent of this performance is to respectfully, openly, and artistically shine a light on these topics, and never to address them in unreasonable excess.

<u>TITLE OF WORK</u>	<u>COMPOSER</u>	<u>INSTRUMENTATION</u>
Broken Mirrors*	Vera Stanojevic	snare drum*
Ready to Die Etudes*	Paul Pinto	large setup*
Originating Within*	Nick Werth	setup + theatre*
Before Sensation Returns*	Linda Kernohan	large setup
Le corps à corps	Georges Aperghis	hand drum + theatre + voice
Manifesto	Aaron Graham	setup*
Ceci n'est pas une balle	Alexandre Esperet	body percussion + theatre*

**written for Leach*

**includes electronics*

STAGE PLOT

TECH RIDER

"A dynamic player of acclaimed virtuosity, Leach's activities as a soloist and mission of creating further new percussion literature demonstrate his dedication to the medium of percussion performance."

TIM PALMER

MEMBER, MARACA2 PERCUSSION DUO
FOUNDER, WORLD PERCUSSION GROUP



LE CORPS A CORPS - Georges Aperghis

A dramatic and engaging percussion theatre piece utilizing a zarb (Persian hand drum) and spoken text to depict a tragic racing accident.

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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

A seasoned, in-demand educator, Leach has given clinics at prestigious European conservatories and taught at both universities and summer festivals across the United States. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education, bringing a range of public school and nonprofit experience to his teaching. He recently held a professorship at Kent State University's Hugh A. Glauser School of Music, and now teaches primarily as a guest artist.



Liberty Drum Corps (UK), drumline instruction



Purdue University Fort Wayne, post-concert



University of the Pacific, master class

"Cameron's visit to Fresno State proved that he is a gifted musician and artist. His solo recital was very well received, showcasing his virtuosity and versatility as a performer, while his comments to our students in lessons and a master class were both creative and insightful."

DR. MATTHEW DARLING

PROFESSOR OF PERCUSSION, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO



RESIDENCIES

Leach offers residencies ranging from 1-7 days, which typically include a mixture of education and performance-based components. Shorter residencies will typically include a solo recital and master class, while longer ones often include chamber music coaching, private lessons, and concerto performances with an institution's wind ensemble, orchestra, or percussion ensemble. Residencies can also be developed around a specific theme, such as electroacoustic music or the collaborative process of commissioning and performing new music.

PERFORMANCES

Leach generally performs one of his solo programs during residencies. While full programs are usually presented, sometimes shorter residencies necessitate the creation of a condensed performance-clinic. Other performance options include concertos, chamber music, and collaborative work with students in composition departments.

MASTER CLASSES

Students perform solo or ensemble repertoire and receive feedback in front of their peers. This is a wonderful way to provide a low-pressure performance opportunity and turn individual teaching into a relevant group lesson.

"Cameron's unique, realistic insight and in-process promotion strategies gave my students perspective beyond the four walls of the university, demonstrating how pieces of an electronic press kit (EPK), as well as branding and promotion strategies can (and should) begin now in order to set them up for success 'in the real world.'"

JALISSA GASCHO

ARTIST RELATIONS COORDINATOR, YAMAHA CORPORATION OF AMERICA

CLINICS

Leach presents on a range of topics including musicianship and phrasing, movement and gesture in performance, contemporary music appreciation for young students, the discovery and implementation of one's creative vision, actionable strategies for self-promotion and impactful career-building, and the materials needed to be successful in the digital age.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Students receive one-on-one instruction related to technique, musicality, repertoire, and more.

INDIVIDUAL COACHING SESSIONS

Leach meets with students seeking individualized career advice related to topics such as self-promotion, resumes/CVs, personal branding, website construction, and social media.

GROUP COACHING

Includes work with percussion ensembles, chamber music coaching, drumline instruction, or other group-based teaching.

CAMERON LEACH

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