

# Guest Recital

## *drinking water*

Nancy Zeltsman, marimba

Monday, February 17, 2025

8:00 p.m.

Lawrence Memorial Chapel

*Passatempi [Pastime]* (1928) for piano+ Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco  
I. Un poco mosso (1895-1968)  
II. Un poco burlesco adapt. Nancy Zeltsman  
IV. Serenamente – quasi campestre (excerpts)  
V. Coda/Lento (excerpts)

*Suite in B minor*, LV 65, for harpsichord+ Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow  
Allemand A – Courant A – (1663-1712)  
Allemand B – Courant B arr. Zeltsman  
Saraband  
Fuga Finalis

*Music for marimba* (1994) Joep Straesser  
(1934-2004)  
*World Premiere*

*West Virginia Rose/The Water is Wide* (2013) for piano+ Fred Hersch  
(b. 1955)  
Traditional Scottish  
adapt. Zeltsman  
Nancy Zeltsman, marimba

Video: *The Past is in the Present: At Home with Gunther Schuller*  
Directed by Mary Trunk & Paul Sanchez  
Celebrating Gunther Schuller's Centennial 2025

*Marimbology* (1993) for marimba\* Gunther Schuller  
III. Sarabande (1925-2015)  
IV. Toccata  
Nancy Zeltsman, marimba

*Amulet* (2008) for marimba\*

Paul Simon  
(b. 1941)

*Água de Beber [Drinking Water]* (1959)+

Antônio Carlos Jobim  
(1927-1994)  
arr. Mau Coli and Zeltsman

*Por tí, mi corazón [For you, my heart]*  
(ca. 1925) for guitar+  
from *Tres Canciones Populares Mexicanas*

Manuel M. Ponce  
(1882-1948)  
adapt. Zeltsman

Nancy Zeltsman, marimba

\*piece was dedicated to/premiered by Zeltsman  
+world premiere – this adaptation/arrangement

*We collectively acknowledge that Lawrence University is situated on the ancestral homelands of the Menominee and Ho-Chunk people.*

## GUEST BIO

**Nancy Zeltsman** has been a leading marimba specialist for over 40 years. She has performed and taught across the U.S. and Europe and in Japan, China, Mexico, and Brazil. Zeltsman can be heard on numerous albums as a soloist; with Marimolin (her duo with violinist Sharan Leventhal since 1985); and with her marimba duo partner Jack Van Geem (since 2000). She had a hand in over 150 solo and chamber works having been composed for the marimba. Nancy teaches marimba and chamber music at joint institutions Boston Conservatory at Berklee, and Berklee College of Music (since 1993), and as a guest artist at University of Michigan (since 2021). She founded and served as Artistic Director of Zeltsman Marimba Festival which was attended by over 600 participants between 2001 and 2018. Nancy was inducted into the Percussive Arts Society Hall of Fame in 2022. She lives in Boston, Massachusetts. More at: <https://nancyzeltsman.com>

### A Note from Nancy:

This program, **drinking water**, reflects and celebrates rejuvenation and renewal. My deepest thanks to Berklee for the sabbatical I was granted for the Fall 2024 semester: my first break from teaching in 30 years. The students I have had the honor to teach in this time have kept my heart young and soaring. Preparing this program, I strove to regain the mindset I felt when I was their age, and younger, and immersed in playing. The focus of my project was reviving my performing activities via developing and touring **drinking water**.

Except for Schuller's and Simon's works that I premiered years ago, all the pieces you will hear tonight have not previously been performed on marimba, to my knowledge. The music has American, Brazilian, Dutch, German, Italian, Mexican, and Scottish origins – stylistically representing Baroque, Classical, contemporary classical, historical folk, jazz, Latin, pop, and World music. Intentionally, most of the pieces may strike you as feeling familiar stylistically, while they are all a bit obscure – to be refreshing for all of us. I will record the new pieces and a few others during 2025 for a new album: *drinking water*.

A memory came to me early in 2024 shortly after I learned my sabbatical request was approved. When my father was in his late 90s and woke up in the morning or from a nap, he loved to prop himself up to carefully take a sip of water. He would hold it in his mouth for a minute or so. Gradually, his eyes would begin to sparkle and widen; usually he would crack a little smile, and ... he was himself again! Hence the name of the program.

“I believe that music is a form of language capable of progress and renewal.”

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco