



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas  
College of Music

Guest Artist Recital | Tuesday, January 30, 2024 | 7:00 pm |

Emerald Ballroom (Union 314)

**THIRD COAST PERCUSSION and  
MOVEMENT ART IS  
present METAMORPHOSIS**

**Third Coast Percussion**

**Sean Connors • Robert Dillon • Peter Martin • David Skidmore  
featuring**

**Movement Art Is**

**Lil Buck and Jon Boogz, co-founders and choreographers  
Trent Jeray and Cameron Murphy, movement artists**

Metamorphosis No. 1 (1988; rev. 1999; rev. 2020) ..... Philip Glass (b. 1937)  
arr. Third Coast Percussion

from *Perspective* (2020) ..... Jlin (Jerrilynn Patton) (b. 1987)  
2. Obscure  
5. Dissonance

Amazon River (1993; rev. 1999; rev. 2016) ..... Philip Glass  
arr. Third Coast Percussion

from *Perspective* (2020) ..... Jlin  
1. Paradigm

Sunny X (2019) ..... Tyondai Braxton (b. 1978)

from *Perspective* (2020) ..... Jlin  
7. Embryo  
3. Fourth Perspective  
6. Duality  
4. Derivative

**Leslie Buxbaum, stage direction • Joe Burke, lighting and video design**

*Four hundred twenty-eighth program of the 2023–2024 season  
Photography and videography are prohibited*

## PROGRAM NOTES

### Collaboration and Transformation

This performance is a meeting of fearless and generous collaborators from unique artistic backgrounds, creators deeply rooted in their own tradition but whose branches reach curiously into the broad expressive world surrounding them. Lil Buck and Jon Boogz founded Movement Art Is to explore how their virtuosic street dancing abilities, rooted in popping and Memphis jookin', could tell the important stories of modern life. Third Coast Percussion (TCP) has carved its own special place in the cultural landscape by showing the incredible flexibility of percussion chamber music to give voice to expressions from a diverse range of artists.

At the heart of this collaboration is a celebration of each individual's expressive language and the experiences that shaped it, as well as a curiosity to see each artist's energy translated into the vocabulary of another. Just as the choreography created by Buck and Boogz is set onto different bodies — the movement artists Cameron Murphy and Trent Jeray — for performance, tonight's program highlights how music is also transformed as it is passed from one artist to another. The innovative producer Jlin (whose roots are in Chicago's "Footwork" style of dance music) composed her *Perspective* as a series of electronic tracks, with the intent that Third Coast Percussion would reimagine this music on acoustic instruments for live performance. The music of minimalist icon Philip Glass that appears on this program is an arrangement of an arrangement, music finding its third incarnation in TCP's distinctive sound world.

This project was created in 2020, a year of isolation, and the opportunity to make art together took on a new value. The full creative team — choreographers, dancers, TCP, stage director Leslie Danzig and lighting designer Joe Burke — had planned to come together in Seattle for a residency in the summer of 2020 to build this project on the stage of the Meany Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Washington. When the residency could not take place, this determined team found ways—connecting via rehearsal videos shared on the cloud, simulated mock-ups of stage set-ups and light renderings, and of course, many Zoom meetings—to build this project together across long distances, and have since continued transforming the project into versions for audiences to experience through a screen, and finally, in person.

## The Music

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, **Philip Glass** is a graduate of the University of Chicago and the Juilliard School. By 1974, Glass had created a large collection of music for The Philip Glass Ensemble, culminating in the landmark opera, *Einstein on the Beach*. Since *Einstein*, Glass's repertoire has grown to include music for opera, dance, theater, orchestra, and film. His scores have received Academy Award nominations (*Kundun*, *The Hours*, *Notes on a Scandal*) and a Golden Globe (*The Truman Show*). Recent works include Glass's memoir, *Words Without Music*, by Liveright Books, Glass's *Piano Sonata No. 1*, opera *Circus Days and Nights* and *Symphony No. 14*. Glass received the Praemium Imperiale in 2012, the U.S. National Medal of the Arts from President Barack Obama in 2016, and 41st Kennedy Center Honors in 2018.

Glass's *Amazon River* and *Metamorphosis No. 1* were works originally composed for piano (*Amazon River* was *Etude No. 2*), then arranged for Brazilian musical group Uakti as part of their project *Agua da Amazonia* for their own gamut of instruments, many of which were custom-made and built by the performers. Drawing on both the Uakti arrangement and the original piano music, the members of Third Coast Percussion arranged and re-orchestrated these pieces utilizing mallet percussion instruments and other unique instrumental colors such as melodica, desk bells, and almglocken (tuned Swiss cowbells).

**Jlin (Jerrilynn Patton)** is a producer based in Gary, Indiana. Her unique and evolving electronic sound is rooted in Chicago's iconic footwork style, with additional influences ranging from Nina Simone to Igor Stravinsky. Jlin's work assembles evocative and vivid sounds into a musical style that she describes as "clean, precise, and unpredictable." Her debut album *Dark Energy* was released to critical acclaim in 2015, and her second album *Black Origami* in 2017 to rave reviews from NPR Music and Pitchfork. She has written music for Kronos Quartet and choreographer Wayne McGregor, and has recently performed at the Big Ears Festival, Whitney Museum of Art, and Toledo Museum of Art, among others.

Her seven-movement work *Perspective* was written for Third Coast Percussion through a highly collaborative process. After exploring and sampling instruments from TCP's vast collection of percussion sounds at their studio in Chicago, she created an electronic version of each of the work's seven movements using these samples and other sounds from her own library.

The members of Third Coast Percussion then set about determining how to realize these pieces in live performance. Diving into each of the audio tracks, the percussionists found dozens of sonic layers, patterns that never seem to repeat when one would expect them to, and outrageous sounds that are hard to imagine recreating acoustically. Even typical percussion sounds like snare drum, hi-hat, or kick drum exist in multiple variations, subtle timbral shades in counterpoint or composite sounds.

In pursuit of the broad expressive range of Jlin's original tracks, TCP's live version of this piece incorporates mixing bowls filled with water, bird calls, and a variety of gongs and tambourines, as well as many variations of drumset-like sounds: instruments that are like a hi-hat but not a hi-hat, or serve the function of a snare drum but are not a snare drum.

Jlin named her piece *Perspective* as a reference to this unique collaborative process, that this work would exist in two forms, the same music as interpreted through different artists and their modes of expression.

*Perspective* by Jlin was commissioned for Third Coast Percussion by the Boulanger Initiative, the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation, Carnegie Hall, the Lester & Hope Abelson Fund for the Performing Arts at the Chicago Community Foundation, the DEW Foundation, and Third Coast Percussion's New Works Fund.

*Perspective* was named a Finalist for the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for music.

Jlin's *Perspective* and Philip Glass's *Metamorphosis No. 1* are featured on Third Coast Percussion's album *Perspectives* on Cedille Records, which was released in May 2022, and nominated for GRAMMY® Awards for "Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance" and "Best Engineered Album, Classical."

**Tyondai Braxton** has been writing and performing music under his own name and collaboratively, under various group titles, since the mid-1990s. He is the former front man of the experimental rock band Battles, whose debut album *Mirrored* was both a critical and commercial success. Braxton has composed commissioned pieces for Bang on a Can All-Stars, Alarm Will Sound, Brooklyn Rider, and Third Coast Percussion. In 2012, he collaborated with Philip Glass during the ATP I'll Be Your Mirror festival. He has also performed his orchestral work *Central Market* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, London Sinfonietta, BBC Symphony Orchestra, and New York's Wordless Music Orchestra.

His 2015 Nonesuch debut *HIVE1* was praised by NPR Music for its "playfulness — the feeling that experimenting with sound is a joyful game." Braxton followed that release with the 2016 five-song EP *Oranged Out*, proceeds from which supported the work of Everytown for Gun Safety, and released three new tracks — "Dia," "Phonolydian," and "Multiplay" — this past winter. His album *Telekinesis*, an 87-piece work for guitars, orchestra, choir + electronics, was released by Nonesuch in 2022. *Record Collector* called it "an astonishing tour de force that gives new meaning to the word 'epic.'"

Braxton was recently appointed to Princeton University's Music Composition faculty as an Assistant Professor of Music.

Braxton's work for Third Coast Percussion, *Sunny X*, further develops his previous experiments with electronic sounds and live percussionists in his *HIVE1* project, utilizing more idiosyncratic instruments such as wooden and metal slats, steel pipes, Thai gongs, and crotales, with electronic playback generated with modular synthesizer.

"Predominantly set up as meditations on small phrases of non-pitched (or \*partially\* pitched) percussion and mercurial electronics, the piece explores different permutations of these meditations where the relationship between the acoustic and electronic realms seems to work together, slip around and contrast."—Tyondai Braxton

*Sunny X* evolved through multiple workshops together in TCP's studio, experimenting with combinations of these unique sounds and discovering musical content that emerges naturally from the idiomatics of the instruments and their physical layout. In particular, a musical and physical gesture that plays prominently in the piece revealed itself when the wooden planks were stacked on top of each other, rather than set side-by-side on a table.

*Sunny X* was commissioned for Third Coast Percussion by the Sewanee Music Festival, George Mason University, and Carnegie Hall, with additional support from Third Coast Percussion's New Works Fund.

*Sunny X* is featured on Third Coast Percussion's most recent album *Between Breaths* released on Cedille Records in September 2023, alongside music composed by Missy Mazzoli, Gemma Peacocke, Ayanna Woods, and Third Coast Percussion.

### The Creative Team

**Third Coast Percussion** is a GRAMMY® Award-winning Chicago-based percussion quartet and GRAMMY®-nominated composer collective, and is the first percussion ensemble to ever win the revered music award. For nearly 20 years, the ensemble has created exciting and unexpected performances that constantly redefine the classical music experience and "push percussion in new directions, blurring musical boundaries and beguiling new listeners" (NPR), with a brilliantly varied sonic palette "dazzling rhythmic workouts" (Pitchfork).

The ensemble has been praised for the "rare power" (*Washington Post*) of more than 30 recordings and "an inspirational sense of fun and curiosity" (*Minnesota Star-Tribune*). Bringing their uniquely compelling programs worldwide, Third Coast Percussion maintains a busy tour schedule, with past performances in 40 of the 50 states and Washington, D.C., plus international tour dates across four continents. Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2025, the ensemble is embarking on the most ambitious collaborative projects of their career, with some of the world's leading musicians, choreographers, and composers from around the world.

A direct connection with the audience is at the core of all of Third Coast Percussion's work, whether the musicians are speaking from the stage about a new piece of music, inviting the audience to play along in a concert or educational performance, or uniting fans around the world via one of their free mobile apps. The four members of Third Coast are also accomplished teachers, and make active participation by all students the cornerstone of all their educational offerings, including thoughtfully curated K-12 workshops and family programming.

The quartet's curiosity and eclectic taste have led to a series of unlikely collaborations that have produced exciting new art. Their omnivorous musical appetite, paired with approachable and flexible working methods, remove collaborative boundaries across cultures and disciplines. The ensemble has worked with engineers at the University of Notre Dame, architects at the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, dancers at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and musicians from traditions ranging from the mbira music of Zimbabwe's Shona people, to indie rockers and footwork producers, to some of the world's leading concert musicians. Third Coast Percussion served as ensemble-in-residence at the University of Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center from 2013–2018, and currently serves as ensemble-in-residence at Denison University.

A commission for a new work from composer Augusta Read Thomas in 2012 led to the realization that commissioning new musical works can be – and should be – as collaborative as any other artistic partnership. Through extensive workshopping and close contact with composers, Third Coast Percussion has commissioned and premiered new works by Philip Glass, Missy Mazzoli, Jlin, Danny Elfman, Clarice Assad, Gemma Peacocke, Flutronix, Tyondai Braxton, Augusta Read Thomas, Devonté Hynes, Georg Friedrich Haas, Donnacha Dennehy, Glenn Kotche, Christopher Cerrone, and David T. Little, plus many of today's leading up-and-coming composers through their Currents Creative Partnership program. TCP's commissioned works have become part of the ensemble's core repertoire and seen hundreds of performances around the world. In 2023, Jlin's *Perspective*, commissioned by TCP, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

Third Coast Percussion's recordings include 17 feature albums, and appearances on 14 additional releases. Besides putting its stamp on iconic percussion works by John Cage and Steve Reich, the quartet has created first recordings of commissioned works by Philip Glass, Augusta Read Thomas, Devonté Hynes, Gavin Bryars, Danny Elfman, Donnacha Dennehy, David T. Little, Ted Hearne, and more – in addition to recordings of original Third Coast compositions. In 2017 the ensemble won the GRAMMY® Award for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance for their recording of Steve Reich's works for percussion. Third Coast has since received four additional GRAMMY® nominations as performers, and in 2021 they received their first GRAMMY® nomination as composers.

Third Coast Percussion has always maintained strong ties to the vibrant artistic community in their hometown of Chicago. They have collaborated with Chicago institutions including Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, the Uniting Voices Chicago choir, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Chicago Humanities Festival, and the Adler Planetarium. TCP performed at the grand opening of Maggie Daley Children's Park; conducted residencies at the University of Chicago and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago; created multi-year collaborative projects with Chicago-based composers Jessie Montgomery, Clarice and Sérgio Assad, Augusta Read Thomas, Glenn Kotche, and chamber ensemble eighth blackbird; and has taught tens of thousands of students through partnerships with Uniting Voices Chicago, The People's Music School, the Chicago Park District, Rush Hour Concerts, Urban Gateways, Changing Worlds, and others.

The four members of Third Coast Percussion (Sean Connors, Robert Dillon, Peter Martin, and David Skidmore) met while studying percussion music at Northwestern University with Michael Burritt and James Ross, and formed the ensemble in 2005. Settling in Chicago, the four friends have carefully and thoughtfully built a thriving nonprofit organization – including full-time staff, office/studio space, and a board of directors – to support their vision and facilitate their efforts to bring new works to life. Members of Third Coast also hold degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Rutgers University, the New England Conservatory, and the Yale School of Music.

Stay up-to-date and go behind-the-scenes by following Third Coast on Instagram (@ThirdCoastPercussion), YouTube (@thirdcoastpercussion), TikTok (@thirdcoastpercussion), Twitter (@ThirdCoastPerc), Facebook (@Third Coast Percussion) and LinkedIn ([linkedin.com/company/third-coast-percussion](https://www.linkedin.com/company/third-coast-percussion)).

\*Third Coast Percussion is a 501 (c)3 not-for-profit organization.

**Movement Art Is**, co-founded by Jon Boogz and Lil Buck, is an organization that uses movement artistry to inspire and change the world while elevating the artistic, educational, and social impact of dance. Through movement art films, workshops, performances and exhibitions, MAI is resetting the spectrum of what dance is.

MAI's award-winning short film *Color of Reality* directed by Jon Boogz, featuring the art of Alexa Meade and the movement artistry of MAI, went viral in fall of 2016. The film has gone on to receive coverage internationally, won Great Big Story's Art as Impact Award; Best Experimental at Toronto International Short Film Festival; and Concept Video of the Year from World of Dance, among others. MAI's recent/upcoming projects include: a short film created in collaboration with DAIS entitled *AM i A MAN* (April 2017), a performance entitled "Honor Thy Mother" at the TED Conference in Vancouver, a live rendition of *Color of Reality* at Aspen Ideas Festival (June 2017) and a VR collaboration with director Terrence Malick and Facebook launched at SxSW and Tribeca Film Festival in spring 2018.

The duo recently choreographed for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago with music composed by Dev Hynes (aka Blood Orange) performed by Third Coast Percussion, and is currently touring a new full length show "Love Heals All Wounds."

As a movement artist, Emmy nominated choreographer and Emmy nominated director **Jon Boogz** seeks to share with audiences of all backgrounds an appreciation of the melding of art forms while inspiring and bringing awareness to social issues. First motivated to dance by the work of Michael Jackson, Jon was just recently nominated for an Emmy award in 2023 for his choreography on the Starz hit tv show "Blindspotting," created by Daveed Diggs and Rafael Casal.

Jon has choreographed for icons including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Naomi Campbell, Gloria Estefan, and for Pharrell's Adidas Originals campaign; he also creative directed, choreographed and performed in Adidas's Standing Rock campaign at ComplexCon. He has worked as a director and choreographer for ads launching campaigns for Louis Vuitton's Virgil Abloh tribute, Banana Republic, NFL (Emmy nominated), Apple and Lexus. Boogz's collaborators include TriBeCa Film Festival, Netflix, Hulu, Dom Perignon, Anonymous Content, Terrence Malick, TEDx, Lil Buck, and Flying Lotus. Jon's choreography has been featured several times on FOX's "So You Think You Can Dance" and in Cirque du Soleil's "MJ ONE" show in Las Vegas, and he was featured at the Geffen Playhouse's "Backstage at the Geffen" with his dance company Control Freakz to honor Morgan Freeman and Jeff Skoll. Jon's role as a pioneer of street dance is profiled in the Netflix documentary Move. The documentary follows the journeys of Boogz and Lil Buck and explores how they are changing audiences' perception of the stories that can be told with this art form.

Jon currently is developing a show at the Public theater in NYC and has many film and tv projects in development.

International phenomenon **Lil Buck (Charles Riley)** began jookin' – a street dance that originated in Memphis – at age 13 alongside mentors Marico Flake and Daniel Price. After receiving early hip-hop training from Teran Garry and ballet training on scholarship at the New Ballet Ensemble, he performed and choreographed until relocating to Los Angeles in 2009. Named one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch," his collaboration with Spike Jonze and Yo-Yo Ma performing *The Swan* went viral in 2011. Since then he has collaborated with a broad spectrum of artists including JR, Damian Woetzel, the New York City Ballet, Madonna, Benjamin Millepied, and Spike Lee. Buck is an avid arts education advocate, recipient of the WSJ Innovator Award, collaborates frequently with global brands including Apple, Lexus, Glenfiddich and Louis Vuitton, and launched a capsule collection with Versace. He co-starred in the viral short film *Color of Reality*, which continues to screen at film festivals worldwide and has won numerous awards.



**Trent Jeray** is a performer from Memphis, Tennessee, who specializes in the style of Memphis jookin'. He has performed as a soloist in Cirque du Soleil's "The Beatles Love" and "Michael Jackson One". Jeray was featured in the Louis Vuitton tribute to Virgil Abloh and also performed for Aerosmith at their "Deuces Are Wild" Las Vegas residency. He loves being able to share the art of dance to help move, motivate, and inspire. Dance saved his life.

**Cameron Murphy** is a movement artist, actor and a former bronze medalist Junior Olympian. Throughout his 8 years of experience, he has infused various styles of street dance, body contortion and acting techniques into his performances. Taking advantage of his surroundings, he spent his first few years training as a self-taught dancer performing in the heart of Las Vegas. Street performing helped prepare him to eventually take on larger roles such as the lead character of Cirque Du Soleil's "Michael Jackson One" and a featured dancer for Aerosmith's "Deuces are Wild" residency.

**Leslie Buxbaum** is delighted to work with Third Coast Percussion again, after stage directing TCP's previous projects *Wild Sound*, composed by Glenn Kotche, and *Paddle to the Sea*. As collaborating director with the dancetheater company Lucky Plush Productions, Leslie has worked on several productions including *Rink Life* (NEFA National Theater Project Award) and *The Queue* (NEFA National Dance Project Award). Presenting venues include Steppenwolf 1700, MCA Chicago, Spoleto Festival USA, CRASHarts at the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, Dance Cleveland, San Francisco's ODC, and Maui Arts and Cultural Center among others. For over a decade, Leslie was cofounder and resident director of the Chicago-based physical theater company 500 Clown, which toured throughout the United States. She has directed at The Actors Gymnasium, House Theatre, Redmoon, Chicago Children's Theater, About Face Theater, and New Victory Theater (NYC), and has toured nationally and internationally as an actor with NYC's Elevator Repair Service. She is Associate Professor of Practice in Theater and Performance Studies, University of Chicago, and a recipient of a Mellon Collaborative Fellowship at the Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry for the development of *Out Here*, a new musical with composer/co-lyricist Erin McKeown.

**Joe Burke** is an award-winning designer spanning his creativity across a wide range of performance types and creative disciplines. Centering his creative offerings on projection and lighting designs has afforded him opportunities to design nationwide. His artistry has been seen and appreciated in venues producing live theatre, exhibits, visual art installations, and music performances. In his last collaboration with Third Coast Percussion, Joe designed the stage lighting and composed additional video artwork for *Paddle to The Sea's* premiere and touring production. As an expansion of his achievements, Joe is the founder of Video Craft, a collaborative studio specializing in custom-tailored original artwork, inspired and functional designs with an evolving aesthetic that meets the needs and vision of their client's project.

Live performance highlights include *The Rite of Spring* (Ballet Arizona), an outdoor ballet set against the desert landscape of Arizona; *The Blumey Awards* (Blumenthal Performing Arts); the pre-Broadway run and world premiere of *August Rush* (Paramount Theatre); *Paddle to the Sea* (Third Coast Percussion); Midwest premiere of *Hope, Part II of a Mexican Trilogy* (Teatro Vista); Midwest premiere of *The Total Bent* (Haven Theatre); Midwest premiere of *Women Laughing Alone With Salad* (Theater Wit!); world premiere of *Earthquakes in London* (Steep Theatre); *The Christians* (Steppenwolf Theatre); and *The Curious Incident of The Dog in The Night-time* (Steppenwolf Theatre).

Visual art presentations include *Seven Soliloquies* (Art on the Mart); *Folxtales* (University of Illinois Urbana Champaign); and *Poetry Found* (The Poetry Foundation).

Joe holds a master of fine arts from Illinois Theatre at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign and a bachelor of arts from Kent State University. He received the Joseph Jefferson Award for his projection design of *Elf The Musical* (Paramount Theatre 2018). In 2014, Joe received The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 3 Theatre Design Excellence in Lighting Design Award. He has been a guest speaker at many institutions, including Kent State University, the University of Illinois, and Northern Illinois University.

This project is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and by Meany Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Washington and the Pablo Center at the Confluence, with additional support from the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation and the Julian Family Foundation.



**Metamorphosis**  
Third Coast Percussion in collaboration with Movement Arts  
Music and Dance Performance

Tuesday, January 30, 2024  
7:00pm | University Union 314  
[UNTUnionTickets.com](http://UNTUnionTickets.com)





*Robert Dillon (Development Dir.), David Skidmore (Executive Dir.), Sean Connors (Technical Dir.), Peter Martin (Finance Dir.)*

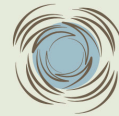
Fine Arts Series Presents:

# METAMORPHOSIS

Third Coast Percussion & Movement Art Is

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024 | 7 PM

EMERALD BALLROOM | UNION 314



THIRD COAST  
PERCUSSION

**MAI**  
MOVEMENT ART IS



FREE FOR UNT STUDENTS

Third Coast Percussion joins forces with the groundbreaking choreography of Movement Art Is (Lil Buck and Jon Boogz), for an intimate, evening-length program that explores the duality of human nature.



\$5 for UNT student guest (Limit 1)  
\$15 for UNT Staff / Faculty / Alumni  
\$30 for General Public