

# Lamont School of Music

## Modern Music Ensemble

### *Spring Concert 2026*

**Martin Kuuskmann**

Director

Saturday, May 30, 2026

7:30 p.m.

Frederic C. Hamilton Family Recital Hall



Robert & Judi Newman Center  
for the Performing Arts

# Program

## Venera (2026)

Emma Calvert, flute  
Gabby Gillespie, oboe  
Timothy Coffey, clarinet  
Ryan Kilgroe, trumpet  
Francis Lien, piano

**Logan Dougherty**  
(b. 1993)

## Buckets! (2026)

Christian Reesman, bucket  
Gabby Gillespie, bucket  
Logan Dougherty, bucket  
Ryan Kilgroe, bucket  
Tyler McIntosh, bucket  
Zach Regin, tube

**Ryan Kilgroe**  
(b. 2005)

## Pearls (2026)

Mia Butler, harp

**Mia Butler**  
(b. 2005)

## Harrowing Escapade (2026)

Annabelle Linke, violin  
Lily Tropple, clarinet  
Luca Dovalina, bassoon  
Bradley de Lucia, piano

**Christian Reesman**  
(b. 2006)

## Improvisation

### *Traditional Martian Ensemble:*

Emma Calvert, flute  
Timothy Coffey, clarinet(s)  
Matthew Sousa, percussion  
Karalina Coates, piano/celesta  
Rachel Hayward, piano/celesta  
Mia Butler, harp  
Alex Uhrlaub, electric guitar  
Carter Saccocio, cello  
Ronan Caci-Kukelka, electric bass

## Terminal Fantasy (2026)

Ronan Caci-Kukelka, cello  
Katreia Mori, cello  
Francis Lien, piano

**Bradley de Lucia**  
(b. 2001)

INTERMISSION

## Piano Trio in G minor (2026)

Lily Tropple, clarinet  
Katreia Mori, cello  
Francis Lien, piano

**Francis Lien**  
(b. 2000)

Please silence your cell phones

Photography and video/audio recording of Lamont concerts and recitals are prohibited without prior permission from the Manager of Marketing & Communications

# Program Notes

## Venera

Encased by hazy clouds, Venus has often been associated with a mysterious beauty. These thick clouds prevented humanity from truly observing what lie beneath. When the Venera program in the 1960s began sending probes, we finally began to measure the planet. With a crushing atmosphere about 90 times the weight of Earth's and sweltering heat that exceeds 850 degrees Fahrenheit (737 Kelvin), Venus is far from a beautiful planet (at least for human survival). High volcanic activity has created a runaway greenhouse effect that prevents life from flourishing. Still, there is a grandeur and serenity to this inhospitable planet. This piece attempts to capture some of the hazy beauty, accompanied by a dream-like unease.

## Harrowing Escapade

Have you ever wanted to go on an escapade? No? Too bad! It's not like anything bad—or harrowing—will happen...so pack a bag, get your adventure boots on, and get ready for a fun journey!

## Piano Trio in G minor

Composed in April 2026, this trio reflects the psychological turbulence of my early days studying in Denver. This instability is expressed through frequent syncopation and displaced accents, symbolizing an inner world constantly resisting equilibrium as it confronts a new reality.

Structurally based on sonata form, both thematic groups employ a fugato texture. Deriving from the idea of “pursuit” or “fleeing,” the fugato metaphorically represents my endless chase between anxiety, discipline, and identity. Central to this existential chase is the extensive use of the Dies Irae (Day of Wrath) motif, which reflects a profound crisis of survival. Because music is my absolute core, the immense pressure to succeed creates a haunting paradox: professional failure equates to a metaphorical death of my livelihood and identity. Thus, the Dies Irae shadows the piece just as survival anxiety shadows my life.

The development section relies heavily on contrapuntal techniques—such as canon, retrograde, and augmentation—to continuously reconfigure the material. This mirrors the necessity of adapting to a new environment, forcing every musical idea to repeatedly prove its ability to survive under new conditions.

In the recapitulation, the second theme is omitted entirely. By the unresolved, dissonant conclusion, the remaining thematic material feels fragmented and exhausted. If the theme represents a human figure,

it has been worn down and fractured by experience, leaving us with a lingering question: after such profound transformation, how will this figure continue its journey?

## Donate



Donors to the Lamont School of Music are an integral part of the Lamont community. Since 1983, the Lamont Society has provided financial and other support that has sustained our program's excellence. It has enabled us to purchase instruments, underwrite masterclasses and guest artist performances, support touring ensembles, provide students with professional development funds, support faculty initiatives, maintain scholarships for our deserving students, and much more. We are deeply grateful for this philanthropy!

To support Lamont, please contact Laura Mack, Director of Development, at 303.871.6267 or [laura.mack@du.edu](mailto:laura.mack@du.edu).

You may also donate through <https://liberalarts.du.edu/lamont/society> or with the QR code on this page.



## Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 31, 7:30 p.m.

### **Lamont Composers Concert Series**

Hamilton Hall

Free admission, no ticket required

Monday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.

### **Lamont Jazz Orchestra**

Gates Concert Hall

\$5 for reserved parterre seats, or FREE general admission

Monday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.

### **Classical Guitar Ensembles**

Hamilton Hall

Free admission, no ticket required

Tuesday, June 2, 2:00 p.m.

### **Masterclasses: Daniel Morris, percussion**

Room 130

Free admission to observe

Saturday, June 6, 7:30 p.m.

### **Bluegrass Ensemble**

Williams Recital Salon

Free admission, ticket required

Tuesday, June 9, 7:30 p.m.

### **Denver Chamber Music Festival presents "Virtuosity and Poetry"**

Hamilton Recital Hall

\$40 to \$80

Friday, June 12, 7:30 p.m.

### **Denver Chamber Music Festival presents "Between Worlds"**

Hamilton Recital Hall

\$40 to \$80

Saturday, May 13, 7:30 p.m.

### **Denver Chamber Music Festival presents "Ireland, Appalachia, and Mendelssohn"**

Hamilton Recital Hall

\$40 to \$80

**Lamont Concert Line:** (808) 871-6412

**Full events list:** [liberalarts.du.edu/lamont/performances-events](https://liberalarts.du.edu/lamont/performances-events)



**Present your Lamont program or ticket stub to La Belle Rosette within 24 hours of an event (either before or after) and receive 20% off your order.**

Located steps from the Newman Center at  
2423 S University Blvd, Denver, CO 80210

**Hours (now open later on weekdays!)**

Mon-Fri, 7AM to 8PM

Sat, 7AM to 2PM

Sun, 8AM to 2PM

720.508.4469

labellerosette.com

**[du.edu/lamont](http://du.edu/lamont)**

*Lamont News:* **[Liberalarts.du.edu/lamont/stories](http://Liberalarts.du.edu/lamont/stories)**



**Lamont School of Music**  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

