



Music on the Edge
and the
University of Pittsburgh Department of Music
present

Triadic Memories

Amy Williams, piano

Friday, February 6, 2026 • 8:00 PM
Bellefield Hall Auditorium, University of Pittsburgh

315 S Bellefield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213



University of
Pittsburgh®

Kenneth P. Dietrich School
of Arts and Sciences
Department of Music

PROGRAM

***Triadic Memories* (1981)**

Morton Feldman (1926–1987)

Amy Williams, piano

Morton Feldman was born in New York in 1926 and, though musically self-educated, became one of the most influential American composers of the late 20th century. His long associations with John Cage and other New York School artists (composers Earle Brown and Christian Wolff, painters Mark Rothko, Philip Guston, Franz Kline, Jackson Pollock and Robert Rauschenberg) were profoundly influential in developing his unique musical voice. His works, almost always slow and soft, became longer and longer, up to the nearly 6-hour second string quartet.

His extraordinary late solo piano work, “Triadic Memories” (1981), is a study in slowly evolving repetitions over the 75-minute duration. The composer described the piece as “the biggest butterfly in captivity.” Exact repetitions, subtle variations, shifting patterns and fresh new materials are interwoven. Materials are constantly recontextualized, using different voicing and registers, changing one note of a chord, juxtaposing new harmonies—always changing and always soft. The piece is not outwardly triadic (the harmonies are built primarily of seconds, sevenths and augmented fourths), but triads emerge through the hazy resonance. The listener is taken on a journey—not of sights or events, but of deep concentration and reflection. Pianist and composer Amy Williams has been connected to Feldman’s music since her childhood—her father, Jan Williams, and Feldman were close colleagues at the University of Buffalo from 1973 until Feldman’s death in 1987. She has recorded and performed his music for nearly three decades.

About Amy Williams

The “fresh, daring and incisive” (*Fanfare*) compositions of **Amy Williams** have been presented by leading international performers, including the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, JACK Quartet, Bent Frequency, Ensemble Musikfabrik, Wet Ink, International Contemporary Ensemble, Junction Trio, Orpheus, pianist Ursula Oppens, soprano Tony Arnold and bassist Robert Black. Her pieces appear on the

Albany, Parma, Blue Griffin, Centaur and New Focus labels. As a member of the Bugallo-Williams Piano Duo, she has performed throughout Europe and the Americas and recorded six critically acclaimed CDs for Wergo (works of Nancarrow, Stravinsky, Varèse, Feldman and Kurtág), as well as appearing on the Neos and Albany labels. Ms. Williams has been awarded a Fromm Music Foundation Commission, Guggenheim Fellowship, Koussevitsky Music Foundation Commission, two awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Fulbright Scholars Fellowship to Ireland, a MacDowell fellowship and the 2024 Henri Lazarof International Commission Prize. Ms. Williams holds a Ph.D. in composition and a Master's degree in piano performance from the University at Buffalo. She has taught at Bennington College and Northwestern University and is currently Professor of Composition at the University of Pittsburgh. She is Artistic Director of the New Music On The Point Festival in Vermont. Learn more at www.amywilliamsmusic.com

About Music on the Edge

Music on the Edge, co-directed by Eric Moe, Mathew Rosenblum, and Amy Williams, presents cutting-edge contemporary music ensembles from around the world. Recent concerts have featured the JACK Quartet, TAK Ensemble, Dal Niente, Ekmeles, and Third Coast Percussion. Concerts take place at venues on and off the campus of the University of Pittsburgh, including regular collaborations with the Andy Warhol Museum. Large-scale events have included the Beyond: Microtonal Music festivals, a residency with NewBand and the Harry Partch Instruments, the Music on the Edge Chamber Orchestra conducted by Roger Zahab, festivals and symposia dedicated to the late works of Morton Feldman and to intersections between Chinese and American music. MOTE is the only presenting organization in Pittsburgh dedicated exclusively to contemporary chamber music.

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Upcoming Music on the Edge Events

Bergamot Quartet with Percussionist Ji Hye Jung

Sunday, March 1, 2026 | 7:00 PM

New Hazlett Theatre – 6 Allegheny Square E, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

The Bergamot Quartet is joined by virtuoso percussionist Ji Hye Jung for a concert of new acoustic and electronic music. Featuring the world premiere of a new multimedia project by Charles Peck, and the program will also include works by Tania León, Joseph Schwanter, and Reza Vali.

New York New Music Ensemble

Saturday, March 7, 2026 | 8:00 PM

Bellefield Hall Auditorium, University of Pittsburgh

315 S Bellefield Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213

This “passionately expressive” fixture of the new music scene will perform works by Mathew Rosenblum, Ali Sadeqi, Eric Moe and Amy Williams.

~Nois Quartet

Saturday, April 4, 2026 | 8:00 PM

The Andy Warhol Museum – 117 Sandusky St., Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Co-presented with The Andy Warhol Museum

For their first MOTE appearance, this “fiendishly good” Chicago-based saxophone quartet will perform works by Elijah Daniel Smith, Kelly Sheehan, Bobby Ge, Ethan Isaac, Luis Delgado and Danny Fratina.



Visit pi.tt/mote or
scan the QR code to obtain tickets for
upcoming MOTE events!

