

Nancy Zeltsman

[short bio / Aug. 2024]

Nancy Zeltsman has been a leading marimba specialist for over 40 years. She has premiered over 130 solo/chamber marimba works including compositions by Gunther Schuller, Michael Tilson Thomas, Louis Andriessen, Paul Simon, Carla Bley, and Steven Mackey. She has performed and taught across the U.S. and Europe, and in Japan, China, Mexico, and Brazil.

Nancy formed Marimolin with violinist Sharan Leventhal in 1985. The duo was extremely active for its first 11 years and has performed occasionally since 2015. Zeltsman released several CDs as a soloist and with Marimolin and others. Recent albums are “American Gifts for Marimba Duo” with Jack Van Geem (Bridge, 2020); and “purple music,” a (mostly-) solo album (self-issued, 2023).

Since 1993, Zeltsman has taught at joint institutions Boston Conservatory at Berklee, and Berklee College of Music. Since 2021 she has been a regular Guest Artist at University of Michigan since 2021. From 2013-2024, she was regular guest professor of marimba at Conservatorium van Amsterdam. Nancy founded and served as Artistic Director of Zeltsman Marimba Festival which was attended by over 600 participants between 2001 and 2018.

Zeltsman was inducted into the Percussive Arts Society Hall of Fame in 2022 (then the seventh woman among more than 150 individuals in its 50-year history). Nancy is a Pearl/Adams artist; the Nancy Zeltsman Signature Marimba was released by Adams Musical Instruments in 2021. Her popular line of signature mallets by Encore Mallets is available through Salyers Percussion. She lives in Boston, Massachusetts. More at: nancyzeltsman.com