

AMY BETH KIRSTEN

Catalogue of Works

2002 - 2019

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ORCHESTRA:

- *Jacob in Chains* (2020) – in development
Duration: 80 minutes
Commissioned by Alarm Will Sound
1 actor; 1 3D-film mezzo-soprano; 1[1/pic] 1 1 1 – 1 1 1 0 – 2 – pf – str (1, 1, 1, 1, 1). (All parts vocalize).
World Premiere: December 2020
- *strange pilgrims* (2013)
Duration: 12 minutes.
Commissioned by the American Composers Orchestra for the
Orchestra Underground and The Crossing Choir
2[pic.alto] 0 2 0 – 0 0 0 0 – 0 – 0 – 0 – Chorus (SSAATB) – str (9,8,7,6,5).
Premiere: Feb. 20, 2014 / George Manahan, Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall.
- *e.t.e.r.n.i.t.y.* (2011)
Duration: 9 minutes.
Composed for the Bowling Green New Music Festival
3[pic.pic.alto] 3 2[e-flat.bass] 1[contra] – 3 3 3[1.2.bass] 1 – 4 – hp – pf – cel – str
(0, 0, 10, 8, 8).
(All parts vocalize).
Premiere: October 15, 2011 / Conrad Lawrence Chu.
- *Drink Me* (2010)
Duration: 10 minutes.
Commissioned by the Mizzou New Music Initiative for Alarm Will Sound
1[1/pic] 1 1 1 – 1 1 1 0 – 2 – pf – str (1, 1, 1, 1, 1). (All parts vocalize).
Premiere: July 18, 2010 / Alan Pierson: Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts,
Columbia, MO.
- *The Girl He Drew* (2009)
Duration: 9 minutes.
3[1.2.3/pic] 3[1.2.3/en hn] 3[1.2.3/bass cl] 3 – 4 3 3 1 – tmp+3 – hp – pf – str
(10,8,6,6,4).
Read by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra / Marin Alsop.
- *lightgirl (and the interference of her human shadow)* (2008)
Duration: 8 minutes.
Commissioned by the National Arts Centre Orchestra Composers Programme,
Ottawa, Ontario
1[1/pic] 1 1 1 – 1 0 0 0 – 1 – pf – str (1, 1, 1, 1, 1)(All parts vocalize).

Premiere: June 27, 2008 l'Orchestra de la francophonie canadienne / Jean-Phillipe Tremblay.

- *Strange Angel* (2006)
Duration: 7 minutes.
3[1.2.3/pic] 3 3 3 – 4 3 3 1 – tmp+4 – hp – pf – str(10,8,6,6,4). (Percussionists vocalize).
Read by the American Composers Orchestra at the 16th Annual Underwood New Music Readings in NYC / David Alan Miller (2007).

WIND ENSEMBLE:

- *as you were* (2013)
Duration: 8 minutes
2[1.picc] 2 5[1.2.3.bcl.cbcl] 2 – 2asx, tsx, bsx – 4 3 3 1 –1 –T+3 – db (*with optional chorus).
Commissioned by the Jamestown University Wind Ensemble and Benjamin Schneider
Yet to be premiered.

SOLO WORKS:

- *ghost in the machine* (2019) for solo snare drum
Duration: c. 7 minutes
Commissioned by Michael Compitello
World Premiere: Feb 14th, 2019 The Cider Gallery, Lawrence, KS
- *h.o.p.e.* (2015) for piano/toy piano/voice (one player).
Duration: c. 7 minutes.
Commissioned by Nadia Shpachenko.
World Premiere: January 7, 2016, The New Music Gathering, Baltimore, MD.
- *possession* (2013) for solo piano
Duration: c. 10 minutes.
Commissioned by Kristin Elgersma.
World Premiere: January 21, 2014, Moscow, ID.

- *three shadows* (2012) for clarinet
Duration: c. 4 minutes.
World Premiere: April 6, 2012, Chicago, IL.
- *Two Monologues* (2011) for solo flute and solo piano
Duration: 24 minutes.
Monologues can be programmed separately or as one complete work. See below.
- "Pirouette on a Moon Sliver" from *Two Monologues* (2011)
for solo flute (flutist vocalizes)
Duration: 10 minutes
Commissioned by Tim Munro. Text by Amy Kirsten.
World Premiere: October 5, 2011 in Richmond, VA.
- "(speak to me)" from *Two Monologues* (2010)
for solo piano (pianist vocalizes)
Duration: 12 minutes.
Commissioned by Piano Spheres and California Institute of the Arts - for Vicki Ray.
With text by Amy Beth Kirsten and Mariko Nagai.
World Premiere: Nov. 15, 2011 in Los Angeles, CA.
- *Empty Shell Girl* (2007) for solo marimba
Duration: 11 minutes.
World Premiere: March 2014 in Ithaca, NY. Michael Compitello, percussion
- *Never Doubt I Love* (2005) for unaccompanied soprano
(from the chamber opera *Ophelia Forever*)
Duration: 4 minutes.
Text by Elizabeth Siddal and Shakespeare.
World Premiere: May 2005 in Baltimore, MD

CHAMBER ENSEMBLE (WITHOUT VOICE):

- *avalanche lily* (2019) – in development
for saxophone quartet
Duration: 20 minutes
Commissioned by New Thread Quartet / Chamber Music America
World Premiere: Sept 2019

- *may the devil take me* (2019)
for percussion quartet (four triangles)
Duration: 6 minutes
Commissioned by Sandbox Percussion Quartet
World Premiere: Summer 2019
- *World Under Glass No. 1* (2018)
version for five baritone saxophones (no vocalizations)
Duration: 7 minutes
Commissioned by Kenneth Radnovsky
World Premiere: 2019 TBD
- *they might be giants* (2015)
for flute and vocalizing percussion quartet
Duration: c. 9 minutes
World Premiere: May 22, 2015 - HOWL @Lyric Hall in New Haven, CT
- *spun* (2013)
for cello and piano (both players also sing)
Duration: c. 17 minutes
Commissioned by TwoSense made possible by the Fromm Commission,
Harvard University
World Premiere: February 14, 2014
- *Colombine's Paradise Theatre* (2010-2013)
for flute, clarinet, piano, percussion, violin, and cello (all players vocalize)
Duration 60 minutes
Words and music by Amy Kirsten
Directed by Mark DeChiazza
Commissioned and produced by eighth blackbird
World Premiere: October 25, 2013, Richmond, VA
- *kiss to the earth* (2013)
for piano trio (all players vocalize)
Duration: c. 20 minutes
Commissioned by the Calyx Piano Trio
World Premiere: June 17, 2013
- *little alice* (2012)
for string quartet (all players also whistle and whisper)
Duration: 13 minutes
World Premiere by Ko Sugiyama, violin; Jennifer Chang, violin;
Roberto Papi, viola; Maaike Harding, cello

Friday, April 20, 2012: New World Symphony Concert of New Work, Miami, Florida.

- *World Under Glass No. 1* (2011)
for five bassoons (no vocalizations)
Duration: 7 minutes
Composed for Dark in the Song Bassoon Collective
World Premiere: April 18, 2011. Columbia, SC.
- *World Under Glass No. 2* (2011)
for flute, violin, cello, and percussion (all parts vocalize)
Duration: 8 minutes.
Written for Cadillac Moon Ensemble
World Premiere: March 15, 2011, New York, NY
- *Drink Me* (2010)
for chamber orchestra (all parts vocalize) - see listing above, under Orchestra.
- *lightgirl (and the interference of her human shadow)* (2008)
for chamber orchestra - see listing above, under Orchestra.
- *Raven Suite* (2002)
for piano and violin (no vocalizations)
Duration: 5 minutes

VOCAL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE:

- *Savior* (2016-2018)
for two sopranos, mezzo-soprano, alto flute, cello, percussion, (all players vocalize)
Duration: 65 minutes
Libretto, music, directions by Amy Kirsten
Commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with support from the Toulmin Foundation
World Premiere: April 2, 2018 in the Harris Theater of Music and Dance, Chicago, IL
- *QUIXOTE* (2015-2017)
for soprano, mezzo-soprano, contralto, percussion quartet, actor (all players vocalize)
Duration: 90 minutes

Libretto and music by Amy Kirsten
Directed by Mark DeChiazza
Commissioned and produced by Peak Performances at Montclair State
University
World Premiere: March 26, 2017 in the Alexander Kasser Theatre

- *little Lorca song* (2015)
for soprano, flute, harp
Text by Federico García Lorca.
Duration: c. 4 minutes
Commissioned by Jasmine Hogan.
World Premiere: Jan 8, 2016 - The New Music Gathering, Baltimore, MD.
- *she is a myth* (2014)
for 3 female voices and 3 percussion
Duration: c. 7 minutes
Commissioned by The Riot Ensemble
World Premiere: Nov. 6, 2014 Shoreditch, London
- *yes I said yes I will Yes.* (2012)
for soprano voice and contrabass (bassist also sings)
Duration: c. 7 minutes
Commissioned by Lindsay Kesselman and Robin Kesselman
World Premiere: Nov. 18, 2012 Los Angeles, CA
- *yes I said yes I will Yes.* (2012)
for soprano voice and violoncello ('cellist also sings)
Duration: c. 7 minutes
Commissioned by Lindsay Kesselman and Robin Kesselman
World Premiere: Nov. 22, 2013, Washington D.C.
- *fire balloon* (2012)
for alto saxophone and female voice (voice type: light soprano or alto with little
or no vibrato - range is A3 to Eflat 5)
Duration: c. 6 minutes.
Commissioned by Zach Herchen and Elisabeth Halliday
World Premiere: Nov. 18 2012, Cambridge, MA
- *joujou* (2011)
for two percussion with accompanying flute, guitar, and female voice
Duration: 9 minutes
World Premiere: June 2011 at MusicX Festival, Blonay, Switzerland.

- *L'ange pâle* (2010)
for flute, soprano, and two percussion (all parts vocalize)
Duration: 9 minutes
Text by the composer
World Premiere: June 30, 2010 at MusicX Festival, Blonay, Switzerland.
- *The Haunting of Mr. Wolf* (2009)
for solo electric cello, two amplified sopranos, electric strings (violin, viola, contrabass), and 3 percussion (all parts vocalize)
Duration: 8 minutes
Text on The Little Red Riding Hood
World Premiere July 27, 2009 Bang on a Can Festival Players / Brad Lubman, Conductor
- *Little Falling Red* (2009)
for soprano, baritone, clarinet, trombone, piano, violin, contrabass, and percussion (all parts vocalize)
Duration: 9 minutes
Text by Elisa Gonzalez and Jordan Jacks
World Premiere: July, 3 2009 / Julian Pellicano, Conductor
- *For a Dream's Sake* (2007)
for coloratura soprano, cello, viola, violin (all parts vocalize)
Duration: 11 minutes
Commissioned by Andrew Talle and the Johns Hopkins "First Nights" Class;
Text by Christina Rossetti
World Premiere: Feb. 16, 2008 by the CAGE Ensemble, Baltimore, MD
- *Song of Miriam* (2002, revised 2007)
for soprano, flute, clarinet, off-stage bass drum, and string quartet (all parts vocalize)
Duration: 7 minutes.
Text by composer
World Premiere: May 2003, Roosevelt University New Music Ensemble, Chicago, IL

VOICE RECITAL REP:

- *To See What I See* (2005)
for soprano and piano
Duration 6 minutes

Text by Shakespeare

World Premiere: March 2005 by Catherine Marie Green, Baltimore, MD

- *Gone Like Dreams* (2003)
for 2 sopranos and piano
Duration: 5 minutes
Text by composer
World Premiere: May 2003 by Carrie Taghon-Molloy and Brigette Becker in Chicago, IL
- *One Face* (from *Ophelia Forever*, 2005)
for 3 sopranos and piano
Duration: 4.5 minutes
Text by Christina Rossetti
World Premiere: May 2005, Peabody Chamber Opera, Baltimore, MD
- *Let Me Go On* (from *Ophelia Forever*, 2005)
for soprano and piano
Duration: 3.5 minutes
Text by Charles Baudelaire
World Premiere: May 2005, Peabody Chamber Opera, Baltimore, MD
- *Never Doubt I Love* (from *Ophelia Forever*, 2005)
for unaccompanied soprano (uses many extended techniques)
Duration: 3.5 minutes
Text by Elizabeth Sidall and Shakespeare
World Premiere: May 2005, Peabody Chamber Opera, Baltimore, MD

THEATER:

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Duration: 80 minutes
Commissioned by Alarm Will Sound
1 actor; 1 3D-film mezzo-soprano; 1[1/pic] 1 1 1 – 1 1 1 0 – 2 – pf – str (1, 1, 1, 1, 1). (All parts vocalize).
World Premiere: December 2020
- *Savior* (2016-2018)
for two sopranos, mezzo-soprano, alto flute, cello, percussion, (all players vocalize)

Duration: 65 minutes

Libretto, music, directions by Amy Kirsten

Commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with support from the Toulmin Foundation

World Premiere: April 2, 2018 in the Harris Theater of Music and Dance, Chicago, IL

- *QUIXOTE* (2015-2017)
for soprano, mezzo-soprano, contralto, percussion quartet, actor (all players vocalize)
Duration: 90 minutes
Libretto and music by Amy Kirsten
Directed by Mark DeChiazza
Commissioned and produced by Peak Performances at Montclair State University
World Premiere: March 26, 2017 in the Alexander Kasser Theatre
- *STEREOIBLIND* (2016)
for two actors and eight strings
Duration: 20 minutes
Text by Lauren Yee
World Premiere: April 30, 2016, New World Symphony
- *pieces of araby* (2016)
for mezzo-soprano and cello
Duration: 20 minutes
Text after James Joyce's short story, "Araby"
World premiere: Feb. 24, 2016 National Sawdust, NYC
- *Colombine's Paradise Theatre* (2010-2013)
for flute, clarinet, piano, percussion, violin, and cello (all players vocalize)
Duration: 60 minutes
Words and music by Amy Kirsten
Directed by Mark DeChiazza
Commissioned and produced by eighth blackbird
World Premiere: October 25, in 2013, Richmond, VA
- "Pirouette on a Moon Sliver" from *Two Monologues* (2011)
for solo flute (flutist vocalizes)
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for solo piano (pianist vocalizes)
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With text by Amy Beth Kirsten and Mariko Nagai.
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OPERA:

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1 actor; 1 3D-film mezzo-soprano; 1[1/pic] 1 1 1 – 1 1 1 0 – 2 – pf – str (1, 1, 1, 1, 1). (All parts vocalize).
World Premiere: December 2010
- *Savior* (2016-2018)
for two sopranos, mezzo-soprano, alto flute, cello, percussion, (all players vocalize)
Duration: 65 minutes
Libretto, music, directions by Amy Kirsten
Commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with support from the Toulmin Foundation
World Premiere: April 2, 2018 in the Harris Theater of Music and Dance, Chicago, IL
- *QUIXOTE* (2015-2017)
for soprano, mezzo-soprano, contralto, percussion quartet, actor (all players vocalize)
Duration: 90 minutes
Libretto and music by Amy Kirsten
Directed by Mark DeChiazza
Commissioned and produced by Peak Performances at Montclair State University
World Premiere: March 26, 2017 in the Alexander Kasser Theatre
- *Ophelia Forever* (2005)
chamber opera for 3 sopranos, 1 Non-speaking actor, 4-hands piano, off-stage oboe, glass harmonica (or bowed crystal glasses), and percussion
Duration: 40 minutes

Text by Shakespeare, Rossetti, Siddal, Rimbaud, and Baudelaire
World Premiere - May 5-7, 2005 Peabody Chamber Opera, at The Baltimore
Theatre Project

Performance History:

- West Coast Premiere - November 13-16, 2008 San Fransisco Cabaret Opera at Chapel of the Chimes
- Harbor Opera Company - December 7-9, 2008 Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD
- New Peabody Opera Production - February 6-9, 2014, The Baltimore Theatre Project

CHORAL:

- *It is possible these things do not exist* (2015)
SSAATTBB
Duration: 12 minutes
Text by ABK after Ursula K. LeGuin
Commissioned by Volti / Robert Geary
World Premiere: Nov 7, 2015 Piedmont Arts Center, San Francisco, CA
- *Hall of Waters* (2009)
SATB and clarinet
Duration: 9 minutes
Text by Walter Bargaen, Missouri Poet Laureate
Commissioned by Missouri Verses and Voices
World Premiere: February 10, 2010, Kansas City, MO
- *In the Black* (2006)
SSAATTBB
Duration: 11 minutes
Commissioned by Volti for the Choral Arts Laboratory
World Premiere: March 2007 by Volti / Robert Geary, San Francisco, CA
- *Now Touch the Air Softly* (2004, revised 2006)
SSAATTBB
Duration: 5 minutes

World Premiere: 2004 by the College of DuPage Chamber Singers / Lee Kesselman,
Glen Ellyn, IL

- *Oh That I Had Wings* (1992)
SATB
Duration: 4 minutes
World Premiere: 1993 by the College of DuPage Chamber Singers / Lee Kesselman
Glen Ellyn, IL

INCIDENTAL:

- Incidental score (2002)
Me, the Devil, and Other Friends, Backstage Theatre Company; New York City
Premiered at 2003 Fringe Festival.
World Premiere: Chicago, 2002.
- Incidental score (2001)
Arsenic and Old Lace, Backstage Theatre Company.
World Premiere: Chicago. 2001.

INSTALLATION:

- *Music from the Ice Forest* (2006)
for female voice, marimba, bass drum, tam-tam, crystal glasses
Duration: 6 minutes
On display at Walters Art Museum as part of the "Courbet and the Modern Landscape" exhibit, October 2006 - January 2007.