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## 2008 Illinois State University New Music Festival: Amy Briggs Dissanayake, Piano

Amy Briggs Dissanayake Piano  
*Illinois State University*

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Illinois State University  
College of Fine Arts  
School of Music

2008 Illinois State University  
New Music Festival

Amy Briggs Dissanayake, *Piano*

Kemp Recital Hall  
March 19, 2008  
Tuesday Evening  
8:00 p.m.

This is the one hundred and twenty-second program of the 2007-2008 season.

## Program

## About the Artist ....

Please turn off cell phones and pagers for the duration of the concert. Thank You.

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Tango (1940)   | Igor Stravinsky<br>(1882-1971)  |
| Requests (2003)  | David Smooke<br>(born 1969)     |
| Piglia (2001)  | Pablo Ortiz<br>(born 1956)      |
| Teeny Tango (2004)   | Stacy Garrop<br>(born 1969)     |
| Steptangle (1984)  | Frederic Rzewski<br>(born 1938) |
| Tagrango, (Being a Brief Identity Crisis for Piano Solo, 1998) | Hayes Biggs<br>(born 1957)      |
| Tandy's Tango (1992)   | Lou Harrison<br>(1917-2003)     |
| Tango? (1983)  | Conlon Nancarrow<br>(1912-1997) |
| #40 Strident (2002, stride piano étude)                        | David Rakowski<br>(born 1959)   |
| #65 Rick's Mood (2002, chorale-étude on major triads)          |                                 |
| #41 Bop It (2002, bop étude)                                   |                                 |
| #14 Martler (1997, crossing hands étude)                       |                                 |

~ Intermission ~

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Sequenza IV (1965)  | Luciano Berio<br>(1925-2003)      |
| from <i>Three Etudes for Piano</i> (2003)<br>Quiet Music<br>Running | Nico Muhly<br>(born 1981)         |
| Graceful Ghost Rag (1970)   | William Bolcom<br>(born 1938)     |
| In Stride (2003)  | John Musto<br>(born 1954)         |
| Backstage Rag (1999)  | Elena Kats-Chernin<br>(born 1957) |
| Rozology (2000)   | John Halle                        |
| Carnaval Noir (1997)  | Derek Bermel<br>(born 1967)       |

**Amy Briggs Dissanayake** has established herself as a leading interpreter of the music of living composers, while also bringing a fresh perspective to music of the past. She recorded two volumes of David Rakowski's *Piano Etudes* on Bridge Records to much critical acclaim, and will record volume 3 in June of 2008. Based in Chicago, she is a featured soloist and chamber musician on the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's MusicNOW series, where she has worked with composers such as Pierre Boulez, Oliver Knussen, David Lang, Tania Léon, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and Augusta Read Thomas. In the 2005-2006 season, she premiered Knussen's *A Fragment from Ophelia's Last Dance* for solo piano. She was awarded a stipend prize at the 2000 Darmstadt Internationale Fereinkurse für Neue Musik.

The *Chicago Tribune* has called "extraordinary" Dissanayake's "mastery of what lay on the dense, printed page and beyond," and the *Chicago Sun-Times* called her a "ferociously talented pianist." *Classics Today* said of volume one of the Rakowski Etudes project, "Dissanayake does a splendid job projecting the music's wit, and her unflappable virtuosity makes even the densest writing sound effortless... a marvelous disc that piano fanciers should snap up without hesitation." In addition, the *New York Times* praised her recent performance of the Berio Sequenza IV at Lincoln Center for its "live-wire intensity."

Dissanayake has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician in the United States, Europe, Asia and Africa. In 1993, she was selected by the United States Information Agency to tour Africa and South Asia as a United States Artistic Ambassador. Her highly acclaimed concerts combined traditional repertoire with contemporary American music. Today, her recital programs connect composers from all eras and nationalities. She has performed with the Callisto Ensemble, the Chicago Contemporary Players, Chicago Pro Musica, the Chicago Chamber Musicians, Klang, and the Empyrean Ensemble, and as an extra keyboardist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She has also been a prizewinner in the Joanna Hodges International Piano Competition and the Frinna Awerbuch International Piano Competition.

Amy Briggs Dissanayake has appeared as soloist with the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, New Hampshire Philharmonic, and the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka, among others, and her live and recorded performances have been featured on radio stations around the United States and Europe. Recent performances include the Rock Hotel Piano Festival in New York City, the world premiere of Jeffrey Mumford's new piano quintet with the Pacifica Quartet, a residency at the Atlantic Center for the Arts, the Wittener Tage für neue Kammermusik, and solo recitals in the People's Republic of China. Recordings soon to be released include a disc of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century tangos for solo piano, a concerto for piano and wind ensemble of George Flynn on Southport Records, and chamber music recordings of Conlon Nancarrow and Erik Oña for Wergo. Upcoming engagements include performances with Ursula Oppens and the Mark Morris Dance Company at Toronto's Luminato Festival, the Keys to the Future Piano Festival in New York, a performance of Berio's Sequenza IV on the New York Philharmonic's Day of Berio at Lincoln Center, and a solo recital on the Pianocentric Series at Symphony Space in New York. Ms. Dissanayake studied with Ursula Oppens at Northwestern University, where she earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance. She is a Steinway Artist.

## Upcoming Events

### March

- |         |           |     |  |
|---------|-----------|-----|--|
| 17 - 20 | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | 2008 New Music Festival *  |
| 19      | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | Guest Artist, Amy Dissanayake, <i>piano</i><br>"Etudes and Tangos for Solo Piano" *                                      |
| 20      | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | Performance of chamber works by composers from<br>ISU & IWU faculty, national composers, &<br>international composers. * |
| 21      | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | Chamber Orchestra *  |
| 25      | 7:30 p.m. | KRH | Graduate Recital, Shannon Schultze, <i>cello</i> *   |
| 26      | 6:30 p.m. | KRH | Sophomore Recital, Joe Sullivan, <i>guitar</i> *   |
| 26      | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | Senior Recital, Eric Meyer, <i>guitar</i> *  |
| 26      | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | Guest Artist Series: Stephan Vermeersch, <i>clarinet</i>   |
| 27      | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | Charles W. Bolen Faculty Recital Series: *<br>Faculty String Quartet   |
| 29      | 6:00 p.m. | KRH | Senior Recital, Stephanie Lindsay, <i>flute</i> *  |
| 29      | 7:30 p.m. | KRH | Senior Recital, Katie Vasel, <i>flute</i> *  |
| 29      | 9:00 p.m. | KRH | Student Recital, Nick Hoffman & Friends, <i>electronics</i> *  |

\* - Free Admission

KRH - Kemp Recital Hall

CPA - Center for Performing Arts

CPAT - Center for the Performing Arts - Theatre