

Troika Percussion Bio  
(300 word count)

Empowered and passionate, Troika is a New York City and Seattle based percussion trio that began with the convergence of personal relationships weaving a web of academic and ensemble experience in 2016.

Troika began its collaboration with a few common goals: to explore, share, and be advocates for living composers, expand the capabilities of percussion within nature and technology, and create a space for womxn and gender non-conforming individuals within chamber percussion and the contemporary music community. Troika merges meticulous performance practice with a deliberate disruption of listener expectations in performance, pushing the foundations of traditional percussion trio repertoire to become more authentically inclusive – and therefore more truly innovative.

Since 2016, Troika has performed as a guest ensemble at the Pittsburgh Center for the Art's Marshall Gallery, the Greenpoint Gallery, Duquesne University, Truman University, and the Sō Percussion Summer Institute at Princeton University. Valuing partnership and education, Troika has committed to education alongside universities and public schools through coachings, masterclasses, improvised performances, and more across the country through programs such as the Make Music Alliance.

While the vast majority of the 2020-2021 season was directly impacted by COVID-19, Troika continues to believe and push for the creation of art, and the amplification of voices, especially in marginalized communities. We are looking forward to, and have enjoyed the opportunity to focus on commissioning, education, and recording. Troika has released remote performances of ensemble repertoire alongside a collaborative performance with Sō Percussion. Troika is commissioning new works from composers including Justin Greene, Aaron Locklear, and Phong Tran, rescheduling performances across the Southeast and Pacific Northwest of the United States, reimaging and developing our energy conscious outdoor concert programming, and collaborating with bandoneon performer, Alejandro Pinzon.

Troika is made up of Kasey Blezinger, Shelby Blezinger-McCay, and Paulina Michels.