

UC San Diego | Division of Arts & Humanities | Department of Music

Conduction Improvisors Ensemble

directed by Stephanie Richards

Music 201B Course Concert

November 24, 2014 | 8:00 pm | Conrad Prebys Music Center, Concert Hall

Program Notes:

The inception of creativity comes from the “IDEA”, and from the idea come questions. How you arrive at the answers to these questions (and the questions) will determine the foundation of the philosophy behind the theory on how you approach your art.

Some years ago I posed this question to myself; How do you create spontaneous composition with an ensemble and yet position all desired events? I have learned, it is not the art ... however, it is a nuance in signature, and the signature is the art.

An improviser is a pedestrian in an “Environmental-Orchestration”. My task as a composer/conductor/improviser has been to place the musician/pedestrian in various psychological sound states to induce the image of initial thought.

And through (the) art itself, the constant (re)organization of sounds canvas, these images and thoughts are (re)created.

As a conductor/composer I have developed a vocabulary of gestural information to extend the language of both musician and conductor to further facilitate composition as a flexible, functional, mutual corresponding tool. In doing so the bonds of both composition and conducting become limitless, and the balance between composer, conductor, improviser becomes equal.

February 1st 1985 marked my first “Conduction” in the United States. For the past 12 or so years I have been involved in researching this fertile ground. And today there is much interest in furthering its potential.

A “Conduction” is a conducted improvisation. In essence it is an improvised duet for ensemble and conductor. - Prose Communion - a melding of minds. In this concept, and on this recording, you will hear a system that is a unit. An individual conscience of its own unity. The theory behind its organization is the imagination, a theory that belongs to tradition.

The subject I have chosen is topical world-wide... Perhaps soon, ... universal.
-Lawrence D. “Butch” Morris February 10th , 1947-January 29th 2013

Notated music will be drawn from:

Phantom Station, Butch Morris (2006)
Joann’s Green Satin Dress, Butch Morris (1974)
Albondigas, Stephanie Richards (2014)
Urban Surveyor: 1, Stephanie Richards (2014)

Performers:

Elisabet Gonzalez, piano and voice
Iputu Hiranmayena, gamelan and percussion
Joshua Hochman, guitar
Hsin-Ming Lin, recorders
Juan Rubio, drumset and percussion
Christina Tallon, violin and voice



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