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LAWRENCE D. "BUTCH" MORRIS

CONDUCTION NEW HAVEN 2005

"... as so often with his work, it seems to take up a life of it's own... it takes one's memory and imagination through music, from classical to jazz to blues, and it's emotional range is almost limitless."

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

"Nothing compares to (or prepares one for) the magnitude of Morris' personal vision of Conduction."

— METROACTIVE MUSIC

New Haven - September 19, 2005 - The New Haven Improvisers Collective in association with Jazz Haven will bring Butch Morris to New Haven for a special event this fall. He will be working with a unique New Haven Ensemble to present a performance of Conduction® at Firehouse12 on Saturday October 29, 2005 at 8pm. A conduction performance has been described by Bill Milkowski as, "... a wondrous, confounding balancing act between structure and improvisation."

The year 2005 marks the 20th anniversary of conduction which was commemorated earlier this year with the celebration of BLACK FEBRUARY 2005. Mr. Morris not only conducted different ensembles every day of the week in different venues, but he did so for the entire month of February uniting a community of more than 100 performers. This fall, the tradition continues in New Haven.

See the following websites for more information:

<http://www.conduction.us> - Information about conduction and Black February.

<http://www.nhic-music.org> - information about the New Haven Improvisers Collective.

<http://www.jazzhaven.org> - information about Jazz Haven.

<http://www.firehouse12.com> - information about Firehouse12, the venue.

Lawrence D. "Butch" Morris is one of the leading innovators in the confluence of jazz, new music, improvisation and contemporary classical music. Mr. Morris's work redefines the roles of composer, conductor, arranger and performer, and bridges the gap between the composer, the improviser and the classically oriented musician. Since 1974, his career has been distinguished by unique and outstanding international contributions to television, film, theater, dance, radio, interdisciplinary collaborations, concerts and recordings. He has worked with countless musicians and composers, choreographers, visual artists, writers, theater and film directors and performers. As a composer, he is widely known for his notated compositions and has been especially acclaimed for pioneering and developing the art of Conduction®.

Conduction® (conducted interpretation/improvisation) is a vocabulary of ideographic signs and gestures activated to modify or construct a real-time musical arrangement or composition.

Each sign and gesture transmits generative information for interpretation, and provides instantaneous possibilities for altering or initiating harmony, melody, rhythm, articulation, phrasing or form.

Employing more than 4,000 musicians in 22 countries and 62 cities, resulting in 22 CDs over a 20-year period, Conduction® has amply demonstrated its capacity for cultural diplomacy by uniting communities and serving as a powerful example of a new social logic based on collective interpretation and personal interaction. Mr. Morris has formed notable collaborations with such masters as:

Musicians/composers: Alice Coltrane, Gil Evans, Philly Jo Jones, Cecil Taylor, Steve Lacy, David Murray, Don Pullen, Reggie Workman, Agusti Fernandez; **Choreographers:** Min Tanaka, Fred Holland, Dianne McIntyre, Sally Silvers, Donna Uchizono, Kazuo Ohno, Blondell Cummings, The Alvin Ailey American Dance Center; **Visual Artists:** Alison Saar, David Hammons, A.R. Penck, Markus Luperts, Jorg Immendorf; **Theater/Film:** Avery Brooks, Harold Scott, Christoph Marthaler, Michael Kahn, Alessandro Cassin, Robert Altman, The Wooster Group; **Writers:** Allan Graubard, Greg Tate, Jessica Hagedorn, Ntozake Shange, Javier Barreiro, Sekou Sundiata.

"Butch Morris has made an important contribution to the cultural dialogue we call music."

— JAZZTIMES

"...he creates moving, beautiful music while conjuring the unknown."

— TIME OUT NEW YORK

"Morris has opened his own door to an improvisational latitude that, if deployed with the discretion he has displayed to date, could be a very important progress point in jazz development."

— JAZZ JOURNAL

"When it comes to redefining jazz improvisation at its most basic level... Morris is writing an entirely new chapter. The breadth of colors and compositional styles Which Morris obtains from various ensembles is breathtaking."

— PULSE

"This music is completely surprising and simply overwhelming... building the most incredible crossings of styles".

— NEUE MUSIKZEITUNG

"The universal nature of Morris' Conduction Vocabulary is obvious... but the unorthodox beauty is what resonates the most".

— CD REVIEW

"You do really feel you're in at the beginning of a new and exciting musical language"

— GRAMMOPHONE

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