

The BL Lacerta

Improvisation Ensemble



BL Lacerta has long been Dallas' premier improvisational music ensemble. In the 1980s as winners of the **Chamber Music America National Competition** they became the **Atlantic Richfield Resident Chamber Ensemble** at the **Dallas Museum of Art**. There the ensemble brought internationally acclaimed artists including **John Cage** and **Pauline Oliveros** to Dallas for magical collaborations in the **Horchow Theater**.

Music and Dance

In 2008, **Lacerta** became an *interdisciplinary quintet* with three well seasoned **composer-musicians** and two dynamic **choreographer-dancers**.

The **dancers** are SMU grad student **Tawanda Chabikwa**, Zimbabwe, and SMU dance alum **Jennifer Mabus**, Dallas and New York.

The **musicians** are SMU's **David Anderson** (*piano*), **Kim Corbet** (*trombone/electronics/percussion*) and **Dr. Kevin Hanlon** (*guitar and toys*).

BL Lacerta was recently featured at the nationally acclaimed **TEDx Conference** at **Southern Methodist University** and performed at the debut of the **'Meadows at the Bath House'** Series at Dallas' *Bath House Cultural Center*.



Spontaneous Composition

An oft asked question of the ensemble is, "How do you rehearse improvisation?" **BL Lacerta** rigorously practices the ancient art of **spontaneous composition**. Inspired by the enlightened techniques of historically

significant artists and eras in **music** and **dance**, the result is **innovation** and **reverence** with a great measure of **humor** and **humanity**. Each rehearsal and performance is **unique** and in the **now**.

Gregory Sandow writing in "**The Village Voice**," at the occasion of their **Carnegie Hall Debut** concert in New York, put it this way:

*"I've been down lately on free improvisation, which this summer I even called "banging" ... But **BL Lacerta** doesn't bang. The group's improvisations don't lurch from one moment to the next; instead they unfold section by section ... Free improvisers rarely return together to a previous idea, and even more rarely sense the flow of time sharply enough to balance one idea against another...it sounds not improvised, but planned. This is a remarkable effect...All this is deft and at the same time unassuming, as if nobody thought the skill it takes was any big deal."*

Kim Corbet of **Lacerta** adds:

*"Through trust and awareness **BL Lacerta** creates a dramatic sound movement organism from which emerges one form, one direction, one sure ten-footed biomechanique. Installed."*



what others say about BL Lacerta:

"BL Lacerta was one of the more unusual parts of the presentation. It polarized the audience, who seemed to alternately love it or be completely baffled by it."

-- Mike Orren, *Pegasus News*, TEDxSMU

"One of Texas' most eclectic music groups."

-- *Texas Arts Magazine*

"shared ecstasy in the midst of total control..."

-- Lawson Taitte, *Texas Monthly*

"All this is deft and at the same time unassuming, as if nobody thought the skill it takes was any big deal."

-- Gregory Sandow, *Village Voice*

"Unlike the steady diet of abrasive shrieks and squawks offered by lesser experimental musicians, the members of BL Lacerta carefully fashion genuine melodies, some of them highly complex."

-- Tim Page, *New York Times*

"Once in a while something very new, very different, and very good comes along. Meet BL Lacerta..."

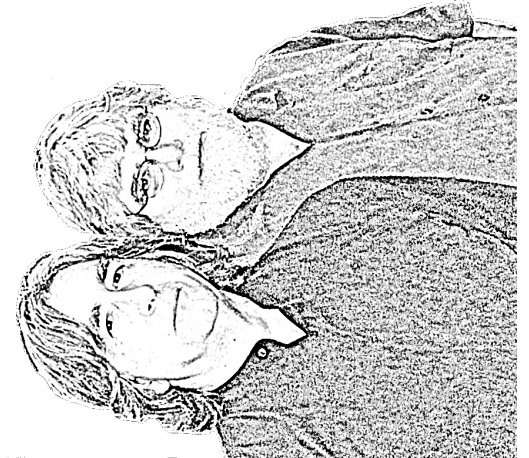
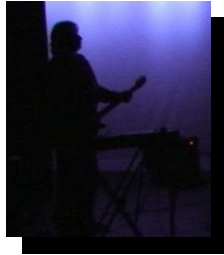
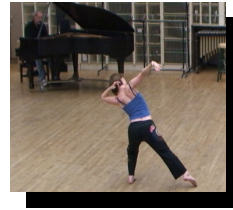
-- *Texas Monthly Magazine*

"Sheer genius on stage!"

-- Erika's dad

"Another jam-band from UNT."

-- Frank Zappa



BL Lacerta

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