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.

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

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