

CONDUCTION® MASTER CLASS

2008-2009

A REVOLUTION IN MUSIC

***Conduction* is a visionary pursuit with practical aims and results,
equally sensitive to the ensemble and the participating individual.
The music of the 21st century requires no less.**

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LAWRENCE D. "BUTCH" MORRIS
THE ART OF CONDUCTION®
2008-2009

Ensemble music presents us with unique issues. What is the music being played? How does an ensemble play it? In what ways can the conductor catalyze a performance?

Lawrence D. "Butch" Morris has defined an oeuvre which speaks to these issues as it reframes them. He calls it *Conduction*: a link between notation, improvisation, interpretation and conducting. By returning the composer to the conductor's podium, and by infusing the qualities of improvisation with the capacities of interpretation, he has charted a new horizon for contemporary music.

His renown internationally characterizes his achievements. In performance, he asks of the ensemble new aptitudes, strategies, and capacities. In workshop, he develops the artistry of the ensemble to best capitalize on the musical traditions or cultures at hand and how each musician can most contribute to the collective. It is, from beginning to end, an educative medium, often with exceptional results. When the ensemble realizes its potential as a means for music creation through *Conduction*, it does so by way of its conductor and its musicians with stunning reciprocity.

This is the vivacity of *Conduction* -- as stimulus for, and supplement to, the ensemble music we know and have yet to know. This also is the attraction of *Conduction* for musicians, ensembles and audience. By broadening the realm of musical possibility while strengthening musicianship, it maximizes existing and probable musical directions.

Where will music tend as the 21st century matures? How can musicians heighten their training, their execution in performance, and their acquisition of knowledge as musicians and as individuals? In what ways will conductors embrace the prerogatives of composition? What, in fact, does musical excellence mean on our multiform global stage?

For over two decades, Mr. Morris has refined the art of *Conduction* in major and minor venues, with stellar ensembles and student orchestras, commonly engaging musicians from diverse cultures and traditions. His numerous awards, recordings, and critical praise make it clear that *Conduction* is an instrument for cultural diplomacy, an educative resource, and an exemplar of the power of music to clarify the harmonies and disharmonies we face as humans.

Mr. Morris now offers *Conduction* to your institution, from the "Master Class Workshop Intensive" to the concluding performance(s). For more information on the "Master Class Workshop Intensive" and the career of Mr. Morris, please see the attached.

**CONDUCTION®:
(Conducted interpretations)**

A vocabulary of ideographic signs and gestures activated to modify or construct real-time musical arrangements 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.

Workshop Curriculum

- ▶ **INTRODUCTION to CONDUCTION** 1 day / 3-5 hours
For musicians and the general public and who have an interest in new ways of creating music for ensemble while supplementing traditional musicianship;
Introductory lecture-demonstration and discussion with emphasis on theory

- ▶ **CONDUCTION Workshop** 1-3 days / 6-9 hours total
Lecture, demonstration, theory and practice.
We explore the many interesting and vibrant ways of constructing and arranging music through the use of the Conduction® vocabulary, as well as how Conduction engages and confronts musical, cultural and social differences through collective and individual interpretation, while engaging each musician in a system of real-time music making that draws on his or her unique personality, history and ability. The Master Class is for the advanced student and/or professional instrumentalist, composer and conductor.

- ▶ **CONDUCTION® Workshop Intensive** 3-5 DAYS / 3 hours per day
An intensive investigation of the Conduction® vocabulary in theory and practice. The Conduction Workshop is open to all musicians interested in developing new skills of perception and the enhancement of ensemble intellect, ensemble arranging and composition. Its aim is to maximize interpretive capability in ensemble interplay, to raise cognition, and to improve focus, concentration and interpretive skill. The Workshop is challenging, demanding, rewarding....and fun.

- ▶ **CONDUCTION® Master Workshop Intensive -With (or without) Concert**
...With emphasis on performance, 6-10 day, 3-5 hour per day intensive investigation of the Conduction vocabulary in theory, practice and performance. The Workshop stresses ensemble 'team play,' which allows each individual the opportunity to participate in the overall construction of compositional development. It enhances the ensemble's interpretive skills by strengthening each musician's knowledge of composition, orchestration and arrangement and elaborating the elements of the decision-making process. The Conduction Master Workshop is open to the advanced musician/instrumentalist interested in developing new skills and techniques of perception. Its aim is to maximize real-time capability in ensemble interplay, to raise cognition and to improve focus and interpretive skill. The Workshop is challenging, demanding, rewarding and fun.

The workshop process allows musicians to hone their skills by developing new concepts of analysis, perception and representation in an ensemble while learning the Conduction vocabulary. Although Conduction is not a method of teaching improvisation, Mr. Morris has frequently been called upon to teach Conduction to non-improvising musician/ensembles.

Highly successful examples of this is his work with the Orchestra della Toscana, resulting in Conductions No.s 57, 58 and 59, performed to great acclaim in Florence, Carrara, and Pistoia, Italy, in February 1996 (CDH 802-803.2). These performances demonstrate one of the most significant common ground effects for the merger of all music by consenting musicians.

The international appeal and acceptance of Morris's Conduction workshops is also evidenced in the 10-CD Boxed Set, *Testament: A Conduction Collection* on New World Records. Recorded over a seven-year period in nine countries with thirteen different ensembles, *Testament* is indeed a testament—and, more than that, a lifeline—to a totally new understanding of what music can be.

Conduction workshops provide an excellent opportunity for students and professionals alike to get a glimpse into what has been described as curious, challenging, demanding, rewarding and fun: "something rare in real time—something new in pure sound." They are typically held over the course of three to seven days, for three to six hours per day, with groups of 15 to 40 musicians.

****CRITERIA FOR MUSICIANS
CONDUCTION® MASTER INTENSIVE****

It is necessary that each musician is able to take and interpret direction, have command of their instrument and be strong confident players /composers/ interpreters interested in developing new requirements, skills of perception and enhancing the ensemble intellect. Musicians with zero attention span need not participate.

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST ATTEND EVERY SESSION OF MASTER INTENSIVE