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Renown Improvising Orchestra Conductor to Visit COM

“Butch” Morris to perform with students and discuss his life’s work

Novato, CA—Jan. 8, 2007—Internationally acclaimed improvising orchestra conductor Lawrence D. “Butch” Morris will be visiting College of Marin on Feb. 6, 2007 to lecture and play music with students and local performers.

The “informance” will be held Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the College of Marin Lefort Recital Hall, Fine Arts Building Room 72. The building is located on College of Marin Kentfield Campus at Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Laurel Avenue. There is no charge to the public.

Morris is one of the leading innovators in the confluence of jazz, new music, improvisation and contemporary classical music. His hallmark style, which redefines the roles of composer, conductor, arranger and performer, has been described as “an entirely new chapter” in jazz improvisation. A review by Pulse says: “The breadth of colors and compositional styles which Morris obtains from various ensembles is breathtaking.”

A New York resident, Morris was one of five artists to receive the 2006 Alpert Award fellowship from the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) and the Herb Alpert Foundation.

“Jazz is my heritage, my condition, my tradition,” Morris has said. “I will carry it on...At the same time I am advocating an ensemble of musicians from diverse traditions who share a common ground and goal as servants to music, whose aim is locating that extra dimension, that point where all musicians can create on equal footing.”

Since 1974, Morris has collaborated with television, film, theater, dance, radio, interdisciplinary collaborations, concerts and recordings. As a composer, he is widely known for his notated compositions and has been especially acclaimed for pioneering and developing the art of Conduction(r).

In conduction, Morris directs an interpretation and improvisation using a vocabulary of ideographic signs and gestures to modify or construct a real-time musical arrangement or composition. Each gesture transmits information for interpretation and provides instantaneous possibilities for altering or initiating harmony, melody, form and rhythm. Conduction has demonstrated a capacity for cultural diplomacy by

uniting communities. With thousands of musicians in 22 countries and 62 cities, he has created 22 CDs over a 19-year period.

“This will be an exciting event for our students and the musical community,” said Tara Flandreau, College of Marin music instructor. Flandreau is scheduled to perform with Morris and COM music instructor Jessica Ivry at another event in San Francisco.

“It will be wonderful for our student musicians to have an opportunity to work with such an accomplished artist and to participate in this musical technique of conduction. Conduction allows musicians to collaborate in the compositional process, something many classical musicians have never experienced,” Flandreau says. “It develops communication, creating musical community.”

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