

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Kathleen Brady Stimpert, 512-475-6784, kathleen.bradystimpert@blantonmuseum.org

Stacey Kaleh, 512-471-8433, stacey.kaleh@blantonmuseum.org

Blanton Museum's *SoundSpace* Spotlights Improvisation, Brings Together Noted Musicians, Dancers, and Sound Artists



SoundSpace: Free Music and Community Sunday, January 25 | 2:00pm

AUSTIN, Texas —December 11, 2014 — Improvisation is the cornerstone of the Blanton Museum of Art's *SoundSpace: Free Music and Community*, an immersive multi-sensory experience featuring simultaneous performances throughout the museum's galleries on Sunday, January 25, 2015. Presented in anticipation of the exhibition *Witness: Art and Civil Rights in the Sixties*, on view at the Blanton February 15 – May 10, 2015, the program is inspired by 1960s musicians, visual artists, and other creatives who connected with their local communities through performance, art, education, and outreach. This ninth installment of the acclaimed concert series brings together a versatile group of musicians, dancers, and sound artists known for their creativity, spontaneity, and vibrant performances.

Highlights of the program include performances by legendary jazz musicians and activists, noted contemporary improvisers, and original choreography:

Alvin Fielder (drums), Damon Choice (vibraphone), David Dove (trombone), Damon Smith (double bass), and Jason Jackson (saxophone) will come together for a special performance featuring original improvised music. Groundbreaking drummer Alvin Fielder is a founding member of the Association for Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM), a visionary collective of musicians and composers established in 1965 dedicated to nurturing, performing, and recording original music. Furthermore, Fielder is a founding member of the Black Arts Music Society in Jackson, Mississippi, a founding faculty member of the Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong Summer Jazz Camp, and has performed at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival every year from 1975 to 2008. Legendary jazz composer and vibraphonist Damon Choice is a founding member of the Sun Ra Arkestra. Celebrated for his "cosmic" philosophy, lyrical poetry, and "unorthodox" lifestyle, Choice is considered a pioneer of

Afrofuturism. Dove, Smith, and Jackson are also widely recognized for their avant-garde approaches to improvisation and free jazz music and their commitment to unbridled creativity.

Bel Cuore Saxophone Quartet, a high-energy Austin favorite, will perform works by **Roscoe Mitchell**, a composer known for innovative woodwind performances.

Adam Rudolph and his Go: Organic Orchestra, co-presented by Church of the Friendly Ghost, will engage audiences with improvisational conducting. Developed in a series of free community workshops hosted by the Blanton and open to the public in January, NYC-based Rudolph will conduct local musicians as well as participants from San Antonio using non-linear notation in an original music score. Details regarding additional workshops will be provided at a later date.

The Home of Easy Credit, featuring bassist **Tom Blancarte** and multi-instrumentalist **Louise Dam Eckardt Jensen**, challenges the boundaries of free-improvised music, as well as jazz, folk, and pop music. This *SoundSpace* performance will launch a six-week residency at Austin schools and community centers for the Queens, NY-based group.

SSBT, an Austin-based electro-acoustic trio, will captivate museum visitors with an experimental mix of dual horns, dual guitars, tape, and percussion from No Idea Festival founder **Chris Cogburn**, **Steve Jansen**, and **Parham Daghighi**.

Ballet Austin dancers will bring to life the dynamic choreography of **Nick Kepley**. Kepley has danced with Ballet Austin and the Kansas City Ballet, appeared in Broadway's *Mary Poppins*, in *Camelot* with the New York Philharmonic, and has performed on TV shows including "The Celebrity Apprentice" and the recent NBC series "SMASH." The performance will also feature original video projection.

Heralded by the *Austin American-Statesman* as "The most successful new music event in the City," *SoundSpace* is organized for the Blanton by Artistic Director [Steven Parker](#). A dynamic biannual concert series that brings together musicians and other creatives from all corners of Austin's artistic community and beyond, *SoundSpace* is now in its fifth year. The series focuses on making connections between visual and sound art, and demonstrates the Blanton's commitment to nurturing collaborations that provide innovative experiences with art, inspire creativity, and support the educational mission of The University of Texas at Austin.

SoundSpace: Free Music and Community is open to the public and included with the purchase of general museum admission: \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students, and free for Blanton Members, UT Students, Faculty and Staff, and Children 12 and under. More information can be found at www.blantonmuseum.org.

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About the Blanton Museum of Art:

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art is one of the foremost university art museums in the country and holds the largest public collection in Central Texas. Recognized for its modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings, the Blanton offers thought provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

The museum is located at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Congress Avenue and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 - 5, Saturday from 11-5, and Sunday from 1-5. Thursdays are free admission days and every third Thursday the museum is open until 9. Admission Prices: Adults \$9, Kids 12 and under FREE, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth/College Students (13-21) \$5. Admission is free to members, all current UT ID-holders. For additional information call (512) 471-7324 or visit www.blantonmuseum.org.

For more information contact:

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Stacey Ingram Kaleh, 512-471-8433, stacey.kaleh@blantonmuseum.org

Photo Caption:

SoundSpace: Music and Dance, October 2011

Photo by Elisa Ferrari