

Dissonant Grace

2 voices, piano, 4-6 strings, vocal percussion e' bass, live-loops





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Dissonant Grace Bio & Press Release

“... Love the writing! ...”

Kim Nazarian – New York Voices, El Eco

“Your duo has the pleasuring quality that anyone would want to hear when they need hope to continue on...”

Rogelio Montemayor – Ambient Jazz Duo

Group Bio

Dissonant Grace - two classically trained musicians with a background in a cappella and vocal jazz sounding out a mixture of original music from classical and jazz to folk and funk, their music has been described as “tunes and tones from balladesque acoustic jazz to grooving chamber music.”

When you come to a Dissonant Grace show, you may see only two musicians on stage, but you will hear piano, guitar, cello, bass, vocal drums and other sounds, as well as a cappella vocals and live-looping (live recorded loops - no computers here). Creating their musical textures from a combination of Morgen's voice and piano, and Theo's stringed instruments combined with live-looping and vocal percussion (beatboxing), Dissonant Grace is a new project in the course of a much older journey for it's members. In existence since the fall of 2006, DG has appeared in the US as well as Germany and Sweden and has received airplay on independent radio in the US. DG has appeared with Kim Nazarian, of the Grammy-winning New York Voices and shared the stage with such accomplished musicians as Ray Porello (Sammy Davis Jr.'s drummer) and Kevin DiSimone (Barry Manilow, Bob James ...) formerly of the Accidentals.

As members of award-winning bands and vocal groups both Morgen and Theo have toured throughout the US and Europe, and have appeared with New York Voices, M-pact, Naturally 7 and Sean Altman (formerly of Rockapella).

Member Bios

DG is carried by the voice of Morgen, who also plays electric piano and is the principal songwriter for the group. Her Native American heritage, interest in humanity and society, as well as her experience directing a cappella and vocal jazz ensembles have become contributors to her song-writing. Morgen takes inspiration from musical greats of all genres. She has also worked as accompanist for various ensembles including the multi-ethnic Balkan Youth Link Chorus that performed at the United Nations in New York.

Morgen's musical training further includes classical instruction on bassoon; she now studies jazz voice with Kim Nazarian of the New York Voices and is herself a voice and piano teacher, who works with special needs children. She is currently working toward a Masters Degree in Ethnomusicology at Bowling Green State University, where she is also involved with the vocal jazz program.

The foundations and musical colorations of DG are provided by Theo, a native of East Germany, who plays the stringed instruments, sax, and sends vocal drums and bass, and live loops to the speakers. As a member of various ensembles Theo has performed throughout Europe, in Taiwan, Central America and South Africa, in venues including the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva and the presidential residence in Taiwan. He has also had the honor to jam with up and coming drum & percussion phenom Ian Ashby. Theo also works as a sound engineer and has served as tour manager, and PR & tech manager for bands and choirs.

DISSONANT GRACE - PRESS KIT

Educational Programs

DG also regularly appears in auditoriums and offers educational programs in Junior High, High School and University settings, offering instructional sessions that tie into their performances. Morgen and Theo have worked with and adjudicated vocal jazz ensembles and vocal groups and also offer individual instruction for voice, piano and guitar, as well as workshops and clinics. Formats of presentation can include, but are not limited to:

workshop — instructional performances and follow-up discussions / Q&A designed to address musical and/or non-musical topics including: group improvisation; sound reinforcement for vocal jazz, a cappella, and small group ensembles; vocal percussion / beat-boxing 101; mic technique; and more...

clinic — personalized and detail-oriented instruction and hands-on adjudication on YOUR current musical projects and repertoire (with no Dissonant Grace performance involved).



Contact

Dissonant Grace is available for concerts, promotional events, interviews, as well as a wide variety of school and community educational programs involving workshops and clinics. For Lessons and Bookings and to inquire for formats and content of such activities, please contact: info@dissonantgrace.com.

Please also visit Dissonant Grace's website:
www.DissonantGrace.com