

Ventus Machina

Artist Statement:

With each performance *Ventus Machina* strives to find new and creative ways to engage our audience, and certain common features have proven very effective for us: we use a lot of humour, address our audiences informally, and make a point of having each of the quintet members speak during our shows, delivering interesting tidbits of information or dramatic texts and interacting in their own style. We find that audiences love to know who we are as individuals. During the concert we inform our audience about the various musical styles we are flirting with at the time, be that Latin, Jazz, Folk or Pop among others; we share with them the stories of working with composers on commissioned works and how our own arrangements are created; we use a lot of extended instrumentation (piccolo, bass flute, English horn, saxophone, and vocals) for added colour and sonority; and often include a visual element by way of projected images of artwork pertinent to our program.

We never stop experimenting or pushing our own artistic level of excellence, and although we take our music very seriously, we do not take ourselves too seriously, which truly allows us to re-frame the 'classical' genre.

As teachers, we place a great deal of importance on our outreach programming, which we can adjust and adapt to fit various sizes and ages of audience. Our programs can be delivered in either English or French, or even bilingually. We have performed in schools and universities at every level, public libraries, retirement communities, and even daycare centers! Whether we are performing our scripted, "Time Travel Machina" or giving mini performances and workshops, we always include opportunities for audience participation, questions and comments, and a lot of laughter!

At all our performances *Ventus Machina* members visit and interact with the audience both at the intermission and after the shows. We enjoy taking questions and strive to make personal connections in each of the communities we visit.

Our audience members say:

"I wouldn't miss a *Ventus Machina* concert – there is always a fun twist!" - Diane Fournier

"You guys are so much fun to watch, it's like watching a bunch of kids who have gotten a-hold of the grown-ups' instruments and are messing around with them!" – Patricia GuildArt

The media says about our album, 'In the Weeds':

« L'album est joyeux, léger, et s'écoute tout seul; c'est la musique idéale pour se mettre de bonne humeur le matin. » -*Oui 98FM Halifax*

"This album is joyful, light and easy to listen to; it's the perfect music to put you in a good mood each morning"