

NEW RELEASES FROM  
TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS

# THE LANTHANIDE SERIES

TO MARK ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY, TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS PRESENTS THE LANTHANIDES, A SERIES OF 14 SINGLE-SIDED, LIMITED-EDITION LPS. EACH DISK IS PRESSED ON CLEAR OR TRANSPARENT VINYL, SILK-SCREENED ON THE REVERSE IN GLOW-IN-THE-DARK OR METALLIC INK, AND PACKAGED IN A CLEAR VINYL SLEEVE.

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## LADONNA SMITH "Rare Earth"

Violinist and violist LaDonna Smith has been on the international new music scene for well over 25 years. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, she is an active performer, educator, publisher and artist, and has been responsible for keeping improvised music alive in the Southeastern United States. Her unique style of improvisation alternates between classical and extended techniques; she explores her instrument, painting scenarios and sound pictures as she plays. LaDonna has performed at practically every major improvisation festival and many of the New Music Festivals, and has toured Europe, the former USSR, Siberia, and Japan. She has also toured North America and Europe many times as Trans Duo, with guitarist Davey Williams. As musical partners, they maintain their own recording label, TransMuseq, and also co-edit *the improviser*, the international journal of free improvisation.

"LaDonna Smith (is) clearly in the realm of undisputed masters, regardless of genre, along with John Coltrane, Ali Akbar Khan, Oum Khalsoum. The point of this pantheonic comparison is to acknowledge that free improvisation has such a dedicated representative. TransMuseq (LaDonna Smith and Davey Williams) has been the only American improvising group which has been devoted solely to improvisation at a consistently high level for a period of time roughly equivalent to the time Brits like Derek Bailey (and company) have been at it.

"LaDonna makes the violin sound like a million cranes flapping their wings through an amplifier. Her style includes sounds that transcend the personal, combined with a kind of technique which is obviously practiced, though never arrogant or overstated. Sometimes the music sounds like a motorcycle driven through the string section of an orchestra; at other times she forays into the upper stratosphere of coloratura soprano extracted from her instrument. Her vocals ring out like a fifth string added to the violin. The entire effect is a chorus/string section of worldly/other-worldly creations. She incorporates everything from the most refined, energetic glisses to polyphonics, harmonics and the scritchiest scatchiest horrors of scrape on wooden bones.

"As saxophonist Wally Shoup said, 'A lot of people have played improvised music, but the question is, how many of them will be doing it ten or twenty years later?'" —FREEWAY

"Smith (is) demonstrating clearly that repose in the eye of the storm can inspire and catalyze the creative spirit." —CADENCE

"Her solo voice, viola and violin CD scrapes and howls, whistles and whinnys, often making strange allusions to a variety of genres. There is a convincing seriousness of purpose behind her highly accomplished stream-of-consciousness playing." —THE WIRE

"Forays into the realms of barely tamed chaos... an impressive complexity of texture, like some deranged nun chanting next to a devilish fiddler." —ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH

"When she takes her fiddle and voice into the world, creating orchestral textures where jazz improv, bluegrass, contemporary classical, Celtic, and countless other influences commingle, the world is never the same again." —SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN

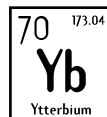


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