



A powerhouse group including some of the Midwest's finest improvisers, :beta collective uses a wide range of orchestration and textures to create a cinematic soundscape set to distinctive and forceful grooves. A hallmark of their performances is the interaction between extensively composed music and free improvisation. In 2021 the group added Alyssa Boyd on vocals, performing their own unique take on repertoire ranging from jazz standards to The Beatles.

Led by guitarist and composer Dan Bruce, who has been called “a lyrical musician with a thoroughly modern bent, based on a firm grasp of the tradition” (bassist Lynn Seaton), the ensemble brings a level of risk, immediacy, and spontaneity that goes well beyond the written page.

Bruce first formed the group in 2015 while living in Chicago. They performed at many of the city's top venues and released their debut album, *Earthshine*, in 2017. Now based in Northeast Ohio, the group continues to perform throughout the Midwest. They released their second album, *Time to Mind the Mystics*, in April of 2022.

Bruce's groups have been featured in The Chi-Town Jazz Festival, The Chicago Composers Collective series at the Green Mill, The Chicago Cultural Center Chamber Music Series, The Jazz Institute of Chicago NextGen Jazz Series, South by Southwest, the Toledo Jazz Festival, The Rubber City Jazz Festival, and The Ohio City Summer Festival. They have been profiled on WDCB 90.9 FM Chicago, WCPN 90.3 FM Cleveland, WYSO 91.3 FM Yellow Springs, WKSU 104.9 Cleveland, coolcleveland.com, Chicago Jazz Magazine, and The South Bend Tribune.

“A perfect balance between the known and the exploratory”

-C. Andrew Hovan, *All About Jazz*

Dan Bruce

By embracing the influence of his heroes from the jazz tradition and retaining his own musical personality, guitarist Dan Bruce has developed a unique and impressive musical voice. A recent transplant to Ohio after spending a decade as an important member of Chicago's vibrant jazz scene, he is active throughout the United States as a performer, recording artist, composer and educator.

Bruce has performed on more than thirty-five albums as a sideman and has released four albums as a leader. Dan has worked with several eminent musicians including Seamus Blake, Ali Jackson, Dan Wall, Lynn Seaton, The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, Daniel Lippel, Rose Colella, Marc Mommaas, and Marquis Hill.

As a composer Bruce has been featured in The Chicago Composers Collective series at The Green Mill and The Jazz Institute of Chicago NextGen Jazz Series, and several of his compositions and arrangements have been published in Fingerstyle Guitar Magazine. His first album, *A Single Thread*, was released to critical acclaim. Martin Gladu of allaboutjazz.com wrote, "*A Single Thread* combines his learned guitar work, which is at times reminiscent of Ben Monder, with substantive yet airy, contemporary sounding compositions", and Chuck Vecoli of jazzreview.com called it "A brilliant first effort". In his All About Jazz review of *Earthshine*, Bruce's second work, Troy Dostert describes "...a generous, accessible sound with an exploratory edge, Bruce brings a finely-polished technique that is at the same time subtly discontent, searching for new expressions and willing to take some chances along the way." His original works and arrangements have been performed by The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra and The Brad Wagner Nonet as well as numerous college and high school ensembles, and he recently received an Individual Excellence Award in Music Composition from the Ohio Arts Council.

Dan is currently on faculty at Cleveland State University