

press release

Ned Sublette and the Southwesterners :

WESTERN CLASSICS

October 10, 1981 8:30pm
\$5.00/\$2.50 members/TDF
The Kitchen, 484 Broome St.
Reservations: 925-3615

Composer Ned Sublette presents, in lieu of a composition, a collaboration that has been developing over the past four years between himself and a group of amateur musicians from his home town of Portales, New Mexico.

Western Classics is a program of old-time southwestern music -- cowboy ballads, waltzes, breakdowns, spirituals, and tearjerkers. Most of the music dates back from before the twentieth century and is virtually unknown to the modern country-and-western audience.

The Southwesterners are Bill Vance (lead mandolin), O.C. "Dink" Essary (melody fiddle), Jack Carr (harmony fiddle), Nelwyn Essary (rhythm mandolin), and Lois Vance (rhythm guitar). They are longtime friends who have been playing together in Portales for many years. Bill Vance and Jack Carr are retired businessmen; O.C. Essary is a Civil Processor with the Roosevelt County Sheriff's Office. The group members have many hobbies, such as gardening, making jewelry, restoring antiques, instrument repair, and painting. All have grown children.

Ned Sublette is a composer and performer who has appeared at The Kitchen many times in the past. He made his Western singing debut at The Kitchen's New Music, New York festival in 1979; this year he performed "The Buffalo Skinners", a song from the Western Classics repertoire, at New Music America 1981 in San Francisco, and at The Kitchen's Aluminum Nights at Bond International Casino. He also sang recitals of Western music at 80 Langton Street, San Francisco; and In Roads and Experimental Intermedia Foundation, New York. Other performances this year include a solo concert at The Mudd Club, a commission from the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, 35 concerts in America and Europe with the Glenn Branca Band, and appearances with Rhys Chatham and with Love of Life Orchestra.

Ned Sublette and the Southwesterners first played together in 1977; in 1980 they recorded an album, Western Classics, scheduled for release this winter on Lovely Music Records. They are appearing at The Kitchen en route to Nancy, France, where they will appear at the 1981 World Theater Festival.