

The Kitchen Center for Video and Music

press release

JULIUS EASTMAN

April 3rd, 8:00pm ⁸¹
\$3.00
33 Grand St. (near West Broadway)

On April 3rd, composer/singer Julius Eastman will present an unusual evening of his own compositions for unaccompanied solo voice. The work to be performed consists in a cycle of "sacred" songs entitled, "Taking Refuge In The Two Principles" and based on original texts by the composer.

This is the first solo vocal presentation by Eastman in several years. Eastman is something of a ~~cult figure~~ among composers and singers, particularly for his remarkable vocal range and facility which runs the full gamut from Russian Basso to Boy Soprano.

Julius Eastman is a highly versatile musician. In addition to being a composer and vocalist, he is an accomplished pianist and appears regularly as a conductor. He has sung major contemporary works for bass voice under conductors Zubin Mehta and Lukas Foss and with the Gregg Smith Singers, as well as recording Peter Maxwell Davies' "Eight Songs for a Mad King" for the Nonesuch label. Eastman graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he studied piano with Mieczyslaw Horszowski and composition with Constant Vaclain. He was appointed Assistant Professor of Music at SUNY at Buffalo but abandoned this post in 1977 to devote more time to composition.

Eastman has written a considerable amount of music. His most recent work is a series of three large pieces for 2-4 pianos. These works have been performed at The Kitchen, Northwestern University and the Third Street Music Settlement. Two of these pieces were commissioned by choreographer Andy de Groat and presented at de Groat's recent performances at the Dance Umbrella.