

The Kitchen Center for Video and Music
press release

GLENN BRANCA LOUD GUITARS

January 16, 1980 8:30pm
\$4.00 / \$3.00 members / TDF Music
The Kitchen, 484 Broome Street
Reservations: 925-3615

PROGRAM: (Instrumental) for Six Guitars
5 Lessons for Electric Guitar (Nos. 1, 2 and 3)
(Untitled) 1979, for sledgehammer, electric piano, 2 guitars, bass,
trap set, dead cymbal, doubled bass drum

In 1977 Glenn Branca started the band THEORETICAL GIRLS (with Jeff Lohn), using the band as a testing ground for musical ideas in the context of rock instrumentation and high volume. In May 1978 The Girls did a large-scale 4-set concert at The Kitchen. In an article about underground rock, John Rockwell of the New York Times wrote, "But amid all the yowling distortion and sometimes silly posturing some fascinating ideas can emerge. Theoretical Girls got into some unusual shifting planes of instrumental color at the Kitchen, balancing gritty blocks of aural texture in an eerie, affecting way."

In September 1978, Branca started THE STATIC in order to develop a more specific approach with the main emphasis on guitar. Writing on The Static, Greg Mclean of the NY Rocker noted that "The way the guitars intertwine on one particular composition creates a beautiful chiming effect. Like in the movies, when the war is over and peace returns to the valley and all the churchbells start rockin' across the land. It had that same type of uplifting groove, truly majestic."

(Instrumental) for Six Guitars, to be presented on January 16th, had its first performance at Max's Easter Festival in April 1979. The piece was the first in a series of extended instrumental pieces. Writing in the NY Rocker, Tim Page noted "I heard a multi-guitar piece of [Branca's] one night at Max's and was astonished." The following August, Shivering Air was performed with dancers EIKO AND KOMA's "Fluttering Black" for three weeks at the Performing Garage. "The music had all the excitement for me--a wordless, racing elation--of a black pennant fluttering in a sharp wind against a glaring sky." (Tobi Tobias, Soho Weekly News)

At The Kitchen's evening of Short Pieces in early November, (Untitled) 1979 was premiered. John Rockwell: "Two or three top-notch successes can redeem a concert like this, but only one piece had much luck. That was Glenn Branca's limply titled Untitled, which was another of the minimal-rock efforts the Kitchen likes to present. This one had a certain power, however, and it made one want to hear more of Mr. Branca's music." The first of the 5 Lessons for Electric Guitar had its first performance in December at the rock club TR 3.

In January 1980, a new band with a core unit of two guitars, keyboards and drums will perform solely instrumental pieces.

Recordings: "You Got Me" single by Theoretical Girls, on Theoretical Records
"My Relationship"/"Don't Let Me Stop You" single by The Static,
on Theoretical Records
"The Static, Live at Riverside Studios" cassette on Audio Arts of London