

# The Kitchen Center for Video and Music

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## *Three Reed Players Improvise at Kitchen*

Roscoe Mitchell, Joseph Jarman and Anthony Braxton, who performed music for varying combinations of saxophones, clarinets and flutes at the Kitchen Friday, were the most promising young reed players of the Chicago jazz avant-garde 10 years ago. Today they are practically elder statesmen. A school of improvisational reed playing has sprung up behind them, and this is not surprising, for they have opened jazz to an unprecedented palette of instrumental sounds while demonstrating that spontaneity and a thoughtful approach to structural organization need not be incompatible.

Between them, the three musicians played more than 20 woodwinds during their concert at the Kitchen, but the unusual instrumentation was not employed for its shock value. Even a piece for bass and contrabass saxophones, composed by Mr. Braxton, avoided cuteness. The switching of instruments by individual players took place in an orderly fashion; it did not intrude on the flow of the music.

The trio played pieces by Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Braxton at Friday's concert, with Mr. Jarman's compositions set for another day, and the bravura contrapuntal passages, silences, variations in dynamics and timbre and satisfying resolutions into chords and unisons the two writers provided guided the collective improvising without unnecessarily circumscribing it.

Mr. Jarman, who plays a battery of wind, percussion and stringed instru-

ments when performing as a member of the Art Ensemble of Chicago and is not often heard soloing at length, turned in several captivating statements, especially a breathy tenor saxophone rhapsody and some celebratory bass clarinet solos.

Mr. Mitchell, who never plays a phrase when a note will do, was catapulted into an alto saxophone improvisation of staggering vitality and richness by one of Mr. Braxton's composed passages. Mr. Braxton was particularly effective on his huge contrabass saxophone, on alto saxophone, and on his regular and contrabass clarinets.

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