

tom hamilton

September 8, 1980 8:30 pm
The Kitchen, 484 Broome Street

"Formal and Informal Music" stems from the superimposition of improvising musicians on a structure defined by electronic tape music. I have explored some of the possibilities inherent in this process in earlier pieces, in particular "Crimson Sterling" of 1973, and "Cornucopia" of 1979, both with J.D. Parran performing. Whereas the larger goal in those pieces came from a desire for unification and homogeneity, the present music strives to maintain several simultaneous but independent experiences. The notion of development through sectional form has been de-emphasized here in favor of a continuous exposition considered on a moment-by-moment basis.

Cyclic change in the tape music has been achieved by storing each of the "voices" on a different length tape loop. The loops, varying from 6 to 12 minutes apiece, are allowed to periodically regroup to form new harmonic and contrapuntal relationships. The loops have been re-recorded and mixed to 4-channel sound for a length appropriate to this performance. The live part that I play has been developed through the interaction of numerous systems, apart from their initial conception, lies in controlling overall speed, duration, tessitura, and synchronization. For this performance, J.D. Parran will perform on flute, then clarinet. His sound language used for this piece draws in part from the idiosyncratic shaping of events in the electronic music.

The duration of this piece is approximately one hour.

TOM HAMILTON has composed electronic works for a variety of media: a record album, Pieces for Kahn, a planetarium show and several video collaborations are among his major projects. He has composed and performed a live electronic music accompaniment for the classic silent film Metropolis. Hamilton was recently commissioned by the American Music Center for a composition and also received the first music commission of the St. Louis Art Museum. He resides in St. Louis, where he is the sound and music director for InnerVision Productions, a video production company. He was born in 1946 in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Woodwind instrumentalist J.D. PARRAN studied clarinet with Les Scott. Mr. Parran holds a Bachelors of Music degree from Webster College, and an M.A. from Washington University. He has taught at both Washington University and at Southern Illinois University. A member of the St. Louis based Black Artists Group (B.A.G.), Mr. Parran has performed with the Symphony of the New World, the ensembles of Anthony Davis, James Jabbo Ware, Leroy Jenkins, and Charlie Morrow; Mr. Parran has continued his collaborations with dramatist Vincent Terrell and composer/performer Thomas Hamilton.

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