

# the Kitchen

center for video and music

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## Yoshimasa Wada Gives a Program Of Resonant Music

By JOHN ROCKWELL

Yoshimasa Wada, a Japanese-born artist turned composer, gave a program of his music called "Small Night Music in Fog" at the Kitchen Thursday night and last night.

Actually, Mr. Wada is still very much a visual artist, in that his piece is almost as appealing to look at as to listen to. In the dimly illuminated Kitchen space, Mr. Wada suspended a tunnel made out of galvanized metal sheets from a rectangular frame, and placed one of his "pipehorns"—long bass horns of his own construction—at one end; the audience sat on foam-rubber cushions at the other end.

Mr. Wada began and ended the 90-minute program by sitting meditatively in the center of his tunnel, chanting slowly and steadily and letting the metal resonate on certain notes he struck. Gradually an electric drone (slightly below C with attendant partials above it) picked up the resonances, and another performer, Barbara Stewart, began to curl around the drone or an overtone with elephantine blasts from the pipehorn.

The end effect, troubled slightly by the clattering trucks on Broome Street, was very evocative—less austere than some of Mr. Wada's previous efforts for horn or sheet-metal alone, yet never so fancy as to cheapen the hypnotic effect. The music sounded like some strange mixture of Tibet, India and "Das Rheingold," and there have been far worse combinations of influences than that.