

The Kitchen Center for Video and Music

press release

YOSHI WADA

May 12-13, 1980 8:30pm
\$4.00 / \$3.00 members / TDF Music
The Kitchen, 484 Broome Street
Reservations: 925-3615

For Immediate Release

On May 12th and 13th, Monday and Tuesday, The Kitchen's Contemporary Music Series will present the music of Yoshi Wada. The presentation will be comprised of a single concert-length work, Lament for the Rise and Fall of the Elephantine Crocodile, a piece involving a very large floor-based bagpipe.

Lament for the Rise and Fall of the Elephantine Crocodile is an instrumental work-in-progress and a continuation of an Adapted Bagpipe Series begun by Yoshi Wada in 1978. The piece continues Wada's inquiry into the timbral and resonance aspects of composition, more specifically, reeds and song within a modal structure. The Elephantine Crocodile may be played solo or used as a drone accompaniment for voice.

The composer notes that "When I first began to work with these cane-reed pipes, I realized that they could be tuned to produce extremely fine tolerances of the intervals. One can easily hear the characteristics of the reed by playing more than one at a time, either in unison or in different perfectly-tuned intervals. The clarity of harmonics and partials in the higher octaves is very strong. Three sets of chord arrangements are provided for this bagpipe; when the pipes are perfectly in tune, one can hear the high microtonal partials very clearly.

"I commenced working in this whole area with a very simple singing of the overtone series, but then gradually came to develop a series of intervals which feels more personal and contains a strong feeling for me. My greatest concern now is with the timbre and tuning of multiple chords, which enable me to evolve my improvisational singing and the mode in progression."

Yoshi Wada was born in 1943 in Kyoto, Japan, graduated from Kyoto University of Fine Arts, has been involved in Fluxus New York since 1968, and studied composition with LaMonte Young and North Indian classical Khayal singing with Pandit Pran Nath. Since 1970, he has experimented with pipe instruments combined with electronics and voice. Lament for the Rise and Fall of the Elephantine Crocodile was performed in Berlin and Dusseldorf in February and 80 Langton Street (San Francisco), Mills College (Oakland) and the Santa Barbara National Guard Armory in March of this year.

484 Broome Street between West Broadway and Wooster, New York City