

The Kitchen Center for Video and Music

press release

ANTHONY DAVIS

January 16, 1981 8:30pm
\$4.00/\$2.50 members/TDF Music
The Kitchen, 484 Broome Street
Reservations: 925-3615

On January 16, The Kitchen's Contemporary Music Series will present compositions by composer and pianist ANTHONY DAVIS, performed by the composer with his ensemble, EPISTEME. The program will feature four new compositions by Mr. Davis: The Enemy of Light, A Walk Through The Shadow, and two works from Mr. Davis' Wayang series, inspired by the Javanese shadow puppet theatre: Wayang Nr. 2 (Shadowdance), for octet, and Wayang Nr. 4 (Under the Double Moon), for sextet. Performing with EPISTEME will be Dwight Andrews, woodwinds; John Clark, horn; Anthony Davis, piano; Jay Hoggard, vibraphone; Terry King, violin; Pheeroan ak Laff, drums; Rick Rozie, bass; and Abdul K. Wadud, cello.

Mr. Davis is recognized as one of the most important young composer/performers of the present period. His meticulously structured compositions utilize motivic cells which may either be created by the performer, or chosen from alternatives provided in the score. Speaking of this method, Mr. Davis has written:

I try to write so the player can overcome his or her limitations. Sometimes when you tell people to play, they just play what they know how to play. The idea is to set up a situation where someone really has to create, to do something more than what he's done before, to use the available musical materials to really think about how the music works.

In the Wayang pieces, the use of this method in the context of metric and non-metric repetition creates a layered approach to rhythm and melody, resulting in a finely-tuned heterophony which, while suggesting a modal base, is actually not anchored to a particular mode.

ANTHONY DAVIS studied theory and composition at Yale College (where he has recently been appointed a Trustman fellow) and was trained in both classical piano and Afro-American music. As a pianist he has performed and recorded the music of many of the finest composers and performers of today, including Anthony Braxton, Leroy Jenkins, Oliver Lake, and Leo Smith. He has toured widely in the United States, Canada and Europe, and is also in demand as a lecturer, for his deeply probing study of form and structure in contemporary improvisation. Recordings of his music include Hidden Voices (India Navigation), Of Blues and Dreams (Sackville), Song for the Old World (India Navigation) and Past Lives (Red Records).