



THE KITCHEN

CENTER FOR VIDEO, MUSIC, DANCE, PERFORMANCE, FILM, AND LITERATURE

P R E S E N T S

THE (R)EVOLUTIONARY KEYBOARD

November 11th - 15th, 1992

ANTHONY DAVIS

November 11

FREDERIC RZEWSKI

November 12 & 13

"BLUE" GENE TYRANNY & USHIO TORIKAI

November 14

**DAVID WEINSTEIN WITH SHELLEY
HIRSCH**

November 15

The Kitchen Presents

The (R)Evolutionary Keyboard

Friday, November 13th, 1992

FREDERIC RZEWSKI

Bumps

De Profundis

The Turtle and the Crane

Andante con Moto

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Notes on Tonight's Program

Bumps

Bumps was written in September, 1990, and is dedicated to Steve Lacy. The title refers to a method of composing in which events are allowed to occur which apparently have no relationship with those that preceded them, resulting in a "bumpy" sequence. From time to time these sequences are recapitulated in an altered and condensed form, a process which is repeated cumulatively: The music folds back upon itself over and over until it finally shrinks into a single "bump".

De Profundis

De Profundis is a 24 minute composition for piano solo, in which the pianist recites a text consisting of selected passages adapted from Oscar Wilde's letter to Lord Alfred Douglas, written during the author's imprisonment in Reading. The piece could be described as an oratorio, in which eight sections with text are preceded by eight instrumental preludes. It was written in the summer of 1992 for the pianist Anthony de Mare, in memory of the actor Luke Theodore of the Living Theatre.

The Turtle and the Crane

The Turtle and the Crane was written in January, 1988 at the request of Aki Takahashi, shortly after I returned from my second visit to Japan. While I was there, my friend Toshi Ichianagi took me to the celebrated garden of this name in Kyoto, in which stand two huge rocks — the islands of the Turtle and Crane — separated and surrounded by a sea of pebbles. These two animals are both symbols of longevity in traditional Japanese mythology (the first lives for 10,000 years, the second for 1,000). I was impressed by the notion that such gardens, far from being static art forms (e.g. frozen music), combine space and time. By spending a long time in such an environment, the observer becomes attentive to small, short, natural events which would otherwise escape notice: the sound of the water, a bird's flight, the falling of a leaf. This experience gave me the idea for a piece of music using two durations: one very long and full of many tiny, unpredictable events; the other shorter (although still long), in which nothing happens. The result is a dialogue in which one partner chatters away at length, while the other answers in monosyllables, always having the last word.

Andante con Moto

Andante con Moto was written in January and February, 1992. The piece is a series of fourteen variations on the theme of the slow movement of Beethoven's Sonata in f-minor for piano, Opus 57 (*Appassionata*). Beethoven's theme does not appear itself in its original form. Some of the variations adhere strictly to the harmonic and rhythmic structure of the theme, others (especially towards the end) depart from it, as though in preparation for a free improvisation. The possibility of a freely improvised cadenza is offered before the final variation, although this option is not obligatory.

Beethoven himself must have improvised at length upon this theme, although his treatment of it in his Sonata is confined to three carefully crafted, Apollonian variations followed by a slightly varied return of the theme without repeats, remarkable for what it leaves unsaid, rather than for its development of thematic material. Its peacefulness and austerity are in stark contrast with the emotional turbulence of the two outer movements of the Sonata. In my treatment of the theme, I have tried to infuse it with some of the inner instability which must have given rise to it in the first place.

The Kitchen Turns Twenty: A Retrospective Anthology

Compiled and Edited by Lee Morrissey

Contributors include:

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Charles Atlas

Eric Bogosian

Rhys Chatham

Tony Conrad

Dancenoise

Molissa Fenley

Karen Finley

Philip Glass

Jenny Holzer

John Jesurun

Bill T. Jones

John Kelly

Garrett List

Christian Marclay

Wendy Perron

John Rockwell

John Sanborn

Woody and Steina Vasulka
and others

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