

The Kitchen Center for Video and Music

press release

music by

JEFFREY LOHN & MICHAEL NYMAN

November 23 & 24, 8:30pm
\$4 / \$3 / TDF Music Voucher

The Kitchen Center, 484 Broome Street
Reservations: 925-3615

On November 23rd and 24th, The Kitchen Center's Contemporary Music Series will present compositions by New York City composer Jeffrey Lohn and London-based composer Michael Nyman. Lohn's piece for voices and strings, a premiere, will be conducted by Julius Eastman; Nyman's pieces will be played by the Michael Nyman Band with the composer at the piano.

Jeffrey Lohn's untitled piece is scored for soprano, 2 altos, 2 violins, viola and 'cello. This piece is the second in a series of three works for female voices and strings; the first piece was played at The Kitchen last February. All three pieces share a common motivic cell which is developed in a different fashion in each piece. As a vocal piece, the present work is unusual in that it has no text--the vocalists sing on solfa syllables. The ensemble will be conducted by Julius Eastman.

Michael Nyman's music aims at a synthesis of different types of classical, popular and experimental music. For his performance at The Kitchen, Nyman will reconstitute his London-based band to present five compositions. In Re Don Giovanni and Five Pieces Opus Tree attempt the deconstruction and extension of 'found' music (by Mozart and Webern respectively). Pretty Talk for George Brecht and How Do You Measure a Song explore and exploit various manifestations of commercial popular music (reggae music and a blend of Jerome Kern and 50s rock 'n' roll). The Bird List Song, in which a string of bird names is intoned to an incessant chordal accompaniment, evokes the fierce energetic quality of rock.

Jeffrey Lohn's background includes the study of music (BA from the University of Maryland) and writing (MA, Johns Hopkins University). Lohn continued his studies with a teaching fellowship at the Center for Music Experiment at the University of California San Diego, where he worked with Kenneth Gaburo. While at the Center, Lohn developed an interest in general language/speech applications to music and wrote a series of pieces reflecting this interest. In 1971, he moved to New York City. His work with language culminated in Lilya Vassilleva, an opera written for three non-native English-speaking women; this piece was produced at the Franklin Furnace last Winter. Another interest of Lohn's has been the application of classical principles of composition to a rock context. This was realized on the one hand in work with Wharton Tiers, Glenn Branca and Margaret Dewys in the music of Theoretical Girls and on the other hand with various pieces which combine traditional rock instruments with highly amplified acoustic instruments. In January, Lohn will present a joint concert of instrumental compositions with Julius Eastman at the Music Settlement on 11th Street.

British composers Michael Nyman studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Alan Bush and Thurston Dart. Since 1968, he has written critical articles on music for a wide range of British newspapers and magazines, including The Spectator and Studio International. In 1974, Studio Vista Publishing released his book Experimental Music: Cage and Beyond. Nyman has performed with the Scratch Orchestra, the Portsmouth Symphonia and Steve Reich and Musicians. The Michael Nyman Band, which performs his music, grew out of the ensemble he formed to play his incidental music for the opening production at the National Theatre in London (1976). The band has given numerous concerts in Britain and Europe and has recorded for German and Belgian radio stations. Nyman's compositions for the band preserve the syntax of functional harmony but through the use of procedures such as numerical systems, gradual process, unmeasured phasing, and structural and harmonic frames akin to ground bass and canon, a new language is created, self-evidently related to the old one but free of its drama, rhetoric and expectations. In addition to his concert music, Nyman has collaborated with filmmaker Peter Greenaway on Vertical Features Remake, A Walk through H and The Falls. In November, Riverside Studio in London presented the premiere of The Masterwork/Award-winning Fishknife, a performance sculpture for theatre by Paul Richards, Bruce McLean and Michael Nyman.

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