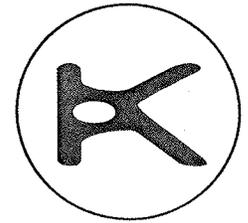


WHAT'S IN



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THE KITCHEN 25th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

March 19, 1997

For Immediate Release

Contact: Isabelle Deconinck

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FREDERIC RZEWSKI: *Coming Together*

"A 60th Birthday Tribute" celebrating 25 years of Piano Music

April 16, 17, & 18 [Thu-Sat] 8 PM \$15

(\$25 for complete run)

More than one critic has compared Frederic Rzewski to Franz Liszt—as an artist who places a formidable piano technique at the service of transcendental expressive goals. In celebration of Frederic Rzewski's 60th birthday, The Kitchen is proud to present a three-evening retrospective of piano compositions by "one of the most energizing and enigmatic figures on the musical scene" (*The Boston Globe*).

An American composer-performer famous for working at the junction of art and politics, Rzewski has helped develop many new areas of music, including the combination of speech and music, advanced twelve-tone techniques, graphics notation, and many freer more improvised forms. Curated by Anthony de Mare, *Coming Together* will feature performances by Rzewski himself as well as many of the pianists who have recorded his work and championed his music, including Stephen Drury, Anthony de Mare, Kathleen Supové, and Aki Takahashi.

On Thursday, April 16, Rzewski will perform the U.S. premiere of his most recent work, *The Road*, an "epic novel" for solo piano, structured like a road that, "doesn't really begin anywhere and doesn't really end either... so it's more like *Moll Flanders* than *Pride and Prejudice*—although the language and characters are lofty, you may turn the next page to find blood splashed over everything."

On Friday, April 17, *Coming Together* will feature Stephen Drury in *The People United Will Never Be Defeated*—Rzewski's mammoth set of variations commenting on the Chilean dictatorship of the 1970's. Anthony de Mare will perform *Piano Piece No. 4* as well as *De Profundis* (written for de Mare), an emotional setting of Oscar Wilde's letter written during his incarceration at Reading jail.

On Saturday, April 18, *Coming Together* will wrap the retrospective with performances of *Chain of Thought* by Rzewski; "*Kreutzer Sonata*" (after Tolstoy), *Agitato* (from Sonata for piano), and *Lost and Found* by Anthony de Mare; *A Life*, *Piano Piece No. 3*, and *Four North American Ballads* by Kathleen Supové; and *The Turtle and the Crane* (written for Aki Takahashi) by Takahashi, among others.

Rzewski studied with Walter Piston at Harvard, with Roger Sessions and Milton Babbitt at Princeton, and with Luigi Dallapiccola in Rome. Strongly influenced by John Cage and David Tudor in the sixties, he was a founding member of the legendary new-music collective, Musica Electronica Viva (renowned for its pioneering work in electronic and improvised music.) In the seventies, Rzewski began developing the more complex and emotionally charged style for which he is well known today. He has been professor of composition at the Conservatoire Royal de Musique in Liege, Belgium since 1977 and has taught at numerous universities including the Royal Conservatory of the Hague, Mills College, the California Institute of the Arts, and the Yale School of Music.

The Kitchen is located at 512 West 19th Street, between 10th and 11th Avenues. For more information or to reserve press comps, please call 212.255.5793.
