Off the Waltz

What happens when John Cage, Virgil Thomson, Milton Babbitt, Philip Glass, and 21 other composers are each invited to create a single piece of music in an antique form—the waltz? Simple. A Modern Love Waltz, a Sentimental Waltz, a Ravel Waltz, a Self-Similar Waltz, a Max Steiner Waltz, and, inevitably, a Minute Waltz. C. F. Peters Corporation sponsored the program, which was proposed in early 1976 by composers Robert Help and Robert Moran. Changing tempi, shifting meters, in some cases entirely discarding the three-quarter time signature underpinning the two-step dance music, the composers playfully reconstructed the charming form. Described as the most radically conceived piece in the group, John Cage's 49 Waltzes for the Free Boroughs is a guide to 147 locations in New York City arranged in triplets. Moran emcees a night of the music at the Kitchen, Saturday, February 3, with a small host of pianists to perform The pieces. 484 Broome Street, between West Broadway and Wooster, 925-3615, 8:30 and 11 p.m., $4, $3 members.

AN EVENING OF WALTZES

About a year ago Robert Moran solicited short waltzes for piano by contemporary composers as diverse as John Cage, Milton Babbitt, Lou Harrison, Charles Wuorinen, Joseph Fennimore, Ivan Tcherepnin, and Gerald Busby. The complete collection of 25 will be performed by Yvar Mikhashoff, John Cobb, Joan Tower, Alan Fienberg, and Moran himself. Feb. 3 at 8:30 and 11, 484 Broome St. (Johnson) The Kitchen 925-3615

SUNDAY (February 4):

Concert. Heavenly Chimes Gamelan Ensemble dir. by Alex Dee, also videotapes of Java by Bill Viola. The Kitchen, 484 Broome St., 5:30-9:30 P.M. (25 Cents)