

240 Mercer St. New York 10012

MISS RADIGUE GIVES A CONCERT ON TAPE

Eliane Radigue is a Parisian electronic composer of impeccable credentials. She studied with Pierre Schaeffer and served as Pierre Henri's assistant. Monday night she presented an 80-minute, four-channel tape at the Kitchen, 240 Mercer Street, that proved something of an exercise in the need for meditative concentration, but had its subtle rewards, too.

Miss Radigue's piece, which was dedicated to her daughter, had some rather enigmatic relationship to the psychoanalytic experience and was coupled in the program with some poetically metaphorical phrases ("feline softness masking capricious savagery," etc.). The program also indicated that the work divided itself into sections dimly suggestive of sonata form.

On a first hearing, however, the parts blended into one another in what seemed like a seamless flow. Realized on an ARP synthesizer, the work consisted almost entirely of thin, soft, sustained sounds. There were no sharp attacks or rhythms (a periodic, regular, muted, plucking effect aside), nothing loud, nothing dramatically contrasted. One kept waiting for something to happen. Then one became aware that on a far smaller level, the sounds were constantly permutating in texture, that a steady stream of sonic activity was in fact taking place right at the edge of one's perceptions. The program was repeated last night.

JOHN ROCKWELL

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