

The Kitchen Center for Video and Music

press release

Ethnic Heritage Ensemble

March 14, 1981 8:30pm
\$4.00/\$2.50 members/TDF Music
The Kitchen, 484 Broome Street
Reservations: 925-3615

On March 14th, The Kitchen's Contemporary Music Series presents the Ethnic Heritage Ensemble of Chicago, featuring "Light" Henry Huff and Edward Wilkerson Jr. on saxophones and woodwinds, and Kahil El'Zabar playing congas, log drums, calabash and other percussion instruments.

The music of the Ethnic Heritage Ensemble blends aspects of traditional African music and other non-Western forms with the structures of contemporary African-American music. All three Ensemble members are affiliates of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, whose tradition emphasizes the equal importance of individual professionalism and group collaboration. Within this context, the diverse backgrounds of the Ensemble's members, which include studies in drum-making and naturopathy, make possible a compelling improvisational music.

The common experiences of the Ensemble's members serve as underpinning to these improvisations. As group founder Kahil El'Zabar has stated, "In Chicago there are a few places that are somewhat warm but overall it is a cold city or a very, very critical city which makes some artists shy away from the situation. It builds very strong artists because of the experiences you go through."

KAHIL EL'ZABAR studied at the AACM School of Music, and at the Percussive Institute of Lake Forest College under Harold Atu Murray, Muhal Richard Abrams, and the late Bill Abernathy. He has performed with Mr. Abrams, Malachi Favors, Kalaparusha, and Donny Hathaway, among others.

EDWARD WILKERSON JR. attended the AACM School of Music and holds a B.A. in composition from the University of Chicago. He has studied with Robert Johnson of the Cleveland Orchestra, Robert Marshall, Shulamit Ran, and Muhal Richard Abrams. He has played with the AACM Orchestra, Roscoe Mitchell, and Henry Threadgill.

"LIGHT" HENRY HUFF also studied at the AACM School of Music. He has performed with Don Moye, Kalaparusha, Malachi Favors, Roscoe Mitchell, and others.

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