

PRICE \$4.95

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THE NEW YORKER

ROBERT ASHLEY'S "CELESTIAL EXCURSIONS"

Ashley has spent a long and notable career expanding the possibilities of music theatre, building his works on multiple layers of computer-manipulated language (from sources as disparate as "The Tibetan Book of the Dead" and *Forbes* magazine), music, movement, and imagery; the results can be as weirdly lyrical as they are provocative. For his latest opera, he turns his attention to the language of elderly people; his performers—most of them longtime colleagues—include such prominent avant-garders as the singers



The Kitchen presents the American premiere of Robert Ashley's latest opera, "Celestial Excursions," beginning April 9.

Thomas Buckner and Joan La Barbara, the pianist "Blue" Gene Tyranny, and the performance artist Joan Jonas. (The Kitchen, 512 W. 19th St. 212-255-5793. April 9-12 at 8. Through April 19.)