

The Kitchen Center for Video and Music

press release

Alden Ashworth * Milton Babbitt * Gerald Busby * John Cage * Tom Constanten * Richard Felciano * Joseph Fennimore * Ross Lee Finney * Peter Gena * Philip Glass * Lou Harrison * Robert Helps * Andrew Imbrie * Karl Kohn * Zygmunt Krauze * Arne Mellnaes * Robert Moran * Roger Sessions * Seymour Shifrin * Alan Stout * Ivan Tcherepnin * Virgil Thomson * Francis Thome * Joan Tower * Charles Wuorinen

WALTZES

New York Premiers of 25 New Piano Waltzes in All Shapes and Sizes

February 3, 1979 8:30 pm
\$4.00 / \$3.00 members / TDF Music

The Kitchen Center
484 Broome Street

A program of keyboard waltzes by John Cage, Virgil Thomson, Milton Babbitt, Roger Sessions, Philip Glass and many others will be featured at The Kitchen Center on February 3 at 8:30 pm. This special collection of waltzes will be played by Yvar Mikhashoff, John Cobb, Joan Tower, Alan Feinberg and host Robert Moran.

The program, co-sponsored by the C. F. Peters Corporation, is the brainchild of composers Robert Helps and Robert Moran. The collaborators describe their project this way: "During the summer of 1976, both of us, via a telephone conversation, realized that we had written two waltzes for piano. The surprise itself caused us to ask, 'Do you think we should ask other friends to write waltzes and put the sum-total into a waltz collection?' This question led us directly to C. F. Peters Corporation, whose enthusiasm for the project was encouraging. Following this meeting came our difficult job of selecting composers, knowing that neither of us could invite everyone we knew who would be interested...The invitations went out, and within a few months the waltzes began to appear." The resulting anthology presents many imaginative approaches to the waltz form and style. It includes a Modern Love Waltz (Glass), a Wedding Waltz (Busby), a Self-Similar Waltz (Wuorinen), a Sentimental Waltz (Ashforth), a Ravel Waltz (Moran), a Max Steiner Waltz (Fennimore), and, inevitably, a Minute Waltz (Babbitt). A full spectrum of modern compositional styles is included, from Lou Harrison's elegantly ornamented melody to Ross Lee Finney's neo-impressionistic chromaticism; from Peter Gena's textured delicacy to Alan Stout's knowing nod to tradition (which is marked feroce).

In a sense, the collection details twenty-five re-definitions of the waltz. Waltz dancers enjoy moving two feet in three-quarter time, but some of the composers eschew the traditional time signature, favoring a modified meter or a shifting set of meters and tempi. While some of the composers reject the traditional oom-pah-pah left hand, others sentimentally include it, and still others retain it as a form of irony or parody. Perhaps the most radical re-definition of the waltz was penned by John Cage, whose "49 Waltzes for the Five Boroughs" is a guide to 147 locations in New York City arranged in 49 triplets; just how the performers will interpret this open score remains a surprise for the February 3 audience.

Host Robert Moran's corps of first-rate pianists is sure to launch the waltz revival in grand style. The public is most cordially invited to attend.

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If you need further information, please call The Kitchen's Publicity Associate, Joe Hannan, at 925-3615.

The Kitchen Center's Contemporary Music Series is partially supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal Agency; the New York State Council on the Arts; the Martha Baird Rockefeller Fund; and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. This concert is presented in co-operation with the C. F. Peters Corporation.

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