



# Sonic Arts Union



SONIC ARTS UNION  
EVERSON MUSEUM

SATURDAY, MAY 19 (AFTERNOON)

Robert Ashley, films, museum auditorium

1:30 **Portraits, Self Portraits and Still Lives** (film by George Manupelli, 1968, b/w, 60 min.)

3:30 **Shoot the Whale** (film by Phil Makanna, 1972, color, 90 min.)

Gordon Mumma, **Cybersonic Cantilevers**,\* Museum Gallery

SATURDAY, MAY 19 (EVENING)

Gordon Mumma, **Cybersonic Cantilevers**, Museum Gallery

David Behrman, **Homemade Synthesizer Music with Sliding Pitches**, Museum Gallery

Robert Ashley, **Quartet**, Museum Gallery

Alvin Lucier, **Bird of Bremen**, Museum Gallery

SUNDAY, MAY 20 (AFTERNOON)

Robert Ashley, films, Museum auditorium

1:30 **Battery Davis**, (film by Phil Makanna, 1971, color, 60 min.)

3:30 **Dr. Chicago** (film by George Manupelli, 1967, b/w, 90 with min. Alvin Lucier, Mary Ashley, and Steven Paxton.)

SUNDAY, MAY 20 (EVENING)

Gordon Mumma, **Cybersonic Cantilevers**, Museum Gallery

David Behrman, **Homemade Synthesizer Music with Sliding Pitches**, Museum Gallery

Robert Ashley, **String Quartet Describing the Motion of Large Real Bodies**, and **In Sara, Mencken, Christ and Beethoven There Were Men and Women**, Museum Gallery

\***Cybersonic Cantilevers** by Gordon Mumma, was made possible by a Creative Artists Public Service Program Fellowship.

This presentation was made possible by a grant to the Sonic Arts Union from the New York State Council on the Arts.

## SONIC ARTS UNION AT THE EVERSON MUSEUM OF ART

The Sonic Arts Union is a live, electronic music consort. Although their repertoire includes a wide range of synthesized sounds and multi-media effects, they essentially belong to the chamber music tradition—a small group of traveling musicians who perform serious avante-garde music.

That music includes musical theatre, original compositions and a repertory of numerous modern American, European and Japanese composers. The group has performed widely in America and Europe, and has recorded extensively. Since they were organized in 1966, they have also presented seminars, performance-arts workshops, and done installation works in schools, universities and art centers across the country.

Sonic Arts Union is composed of four musicians: Robert Ashley, David Behrman, Alvin Lucier and Gordon Mumma. Guests often augment the ensemble.

Robert Ashley is co-director of the Center for Contemporary Music at Mills College. One of the organizers of the ONCE Festival, he received training as a pianist and composer at the University of Michigan and the Manhattan School of Music. In his performance of **String Quartet Describing the Motions of Large Real Bodies** signals from a stringed instrument are electronically processed to create new sounds. His recorded works include **In memorium Crazy Horse** (symphony), **She Was A Visitor**, **The Wolfman** and **Untitled Mixes**.

David Behrman is a composer and concert organizer living in New York. He has published many articles on new music, and has collaborated in performances with John Cage, Frederic Rzowski, David Tudor and Christian Wolff. Behrman's **Homemade Synthesizer**

**Music with Sliding Pitches** uses Behrman's own audio-synthesizer, which can be played by one or two people or groups of people, simultaneously. Behrman's principle recorded works is **Wavetrain**.

Alvin Lucier is on the Music Faculty of Wesleyan University in Middleton, Connecticut. Formerly Director of the Brandeis University Electronic Music Studio and Conductor of the Brandeis University **Chamber Chorus**, his recent work **Vespers** is now included in the repertoire of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. Lucier's **North American Time Capsule 1967** and **I am sitting in a room** have both been recorded.

Gordon Mumma, also one of the organizers of the ONCE Festival, designed the complex sound modifier console for the Pepsi-Cola Pavillion at Expo '70 in Osaka. He has lectured, published and recorded, and works extensively with the Cunningham Dance Troupe. Mumma's **Cybersonic Cantilevers** is a musical event in which primary sounds are transformed into other sounds. Original sounds are processed through five separate stages, and participants can monitor any stage of the process. Visitors may also bring their own sounds and hear them electrically altered through the apparatus. Available on record are Mumma's **The Dresden Interleaf 13 February 1945**, **Mesa, Horn**, and **Music from the Venezia Space Theatre**.

The four work together in order to perform a range of musical forms that lie outside the scope of ordinary concert situations, and to explore resources of sound production and sound organization that are the result of the broadcast application of electronic technology.



Gordon Mumma, Alvin Lucier, Robert Ashley, David Behrman, and Kathy Morton

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