

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
Department of Music

WORLD MUSIC-DANCE

Hommage à Afrique

FEATURING

composer/performer

DAVID SNOW

choreographer/dancer

DIANE KETELLE

February 10, 1980
8:30 PM

Slosberg Recital Hall

Artistic traditions seem to evolve like organisms, transforming and taking root by adapting to the needs of a particular culture at a particular moment. Even modern dance and jazz, artforms indigenous to America are basically transformations of imported or reincarnated traditions, and much of what is vital and progressive in contemporary culture is rooted in a remote past. What makes such ancient impulses transcend time is their basic human quality, their links to the natural inflections of the voice, to the rhythms of the body, and to the subversive spontaneity of improvisation. I have used the term "worldmusic" to describe "Hommage á Afrique" because it draws on many such traditions, though without any attempt to maintain ethnological exactness or to integrate them into a personal style. Whatever was needed was borrowed freely and with gratitude.

The format which "Hommage" has taken, that of a live performer with tape, allows for all sorts of interesting possibilities, not the least of which is an opportunity to perform my own music. Unlike the world of contemporary and avant garde jazz, the performance of contemporary "serious" music has largely fallen into the hands of specialists, emphasizing a gulf between composer and audience; such a refuge is avoided here. The piece is also portable, adaptable to a variety of performing spaces and situations. The tape itself, serving as a ground for improvisation, invites the performer to expand or reduce the scope of the piece in accordance with available resources or the creative urgings of its player(s). The desire here has not been to create a finished object, but rather an evolving experience we can take delight in.

---David Snow

Instruments heard in "Hommage á Afrique";

electric piano*

acoustic piano

Arp synthesizer*

Slosberg Recital Hall organ*

trumpet

kalimba (African "thumb piano")*

dumbek (Moroccan drum)*

claves

bamboo wind chimes

metal wind chimes

*prerecorded

Japanese table gong

suspended cymbals

manjeera (miniature Indian cymbals)

tambourine

sleighbells

maraccas

kitchen pots

shell rattle

finger cymbals

Live sound engineering: Michael Anniccharico

Lighting: Claudia Yukman

Prerecorded tape realized at the Yale University Electronic Music Studio and the Brandeis University Electronic Music Studio between July 1978 and October 1979.

The cover illustration is after a drawing of Isadora Duncan by Antoine Bourdelle.

"Hommage á Afrique" is dedicated with love to our parents, to Rena (yadda-yadda!), and to Claudia.

Future Concerts: Slosberg Recital Hall, 8:30 PM

Feb. 15: Duo-Recital: Rachel Vetter, violin; Andrew Bonner, piano.

Feb. 22: German Music of Renaissance and Baroque. Viols and singers of Early Music Ens.

Feb. 29: Piano Recital of Brady Millican.