

Concert by pianist-composer Richard Grayson

April 2, 1971

Pianist and composer Richard Grayson will visit the University of California, San Diego on Tuesday, April 13, to give a noon concert in the Recital Hall, Building 409 on Matthews Campus.

Grayson's concert will include two very unusual types of music: improvisations in historic styles and live electronic music. Referring to his improvisational technique, Los Angeles Times critic Karen Monson has said, "Grayson ... took themes suggested by members of the audience everything from 'High Noon' to Peter's theme from 'Peter and the Wolf' and, after three or four seconds of deliberation, transformed them into stylistically consistent, harmonically sophisticated works by, as it were, Bach, Gabrielli, Mozart, and Beethoven."

Grayson's ability to improvise in the style of any period in the history of European music, plus some new styles of his own, is truly astonishing said a UCSD music department spokesman.

Live electronics, as used by Grayson, present a kaleidoscope of sounds formed by the use of a ring-modulator and a variable speed tape recorder modifying the sound of the piano. The modulator can change the tone of the piano in various ways, while the tape recorder is used to add echo and variations in pitch. The modulator was invented and will be operated by Tom Oberheim.

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