

Robert Erickson presents new composition

May 28, 1968

Composer Robert Erickson, professor of music at the University of California, San Diego, will present a new composition in the Recital Hall on the Matthews Campus at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5.

The musical work, as yet untitled, is an opera for a soloist and an instrumental ensemble of seven musicians, with a libretto by the composer.

According to Erickson, the composition of the new theater work has involved composition of instruments to achieve the composer's complete musical idea. Erickson has fashioned xylophones with marble bars, similar to Chinese marble chimes and Japanese acoustical stones.

He has also manufactured tuned drums which, unlike conventional drums, have metal heads and resonating tubes which are tuned. Stroked rods, aluminum circles and hand bells are all part of the composer's new score.

Erickson, who call himself a "nut on bells," has been influenced in his writing by the peculiar nonharmonic-overtones produced by materials such as bells, plates and rods. Working with musical timbre, he claims electronic music has taught him that music is much more than just pitch.

In addition to his experiments in timbre, the composer also realized the need for instruments for use by students in improvisation exercises and taped sound sources, all of which he incorporates into his fine arts course at the University. The marble xylophones, tuned drums and stroked rods will be used by students, because they are relatively easy to play and offer a suitable dynamic range for student work.

Participating in the Wednesday program will be Soprano Beverly Ogdon. Miss Ogdon, a performer of new music, was recently a soloist in *Quintina* by Ernst Krenek and in *A Solemn Music II* by Niccolo Castiglioni.

Alan Johnson, graduate fellow in music at UCSD, will conduct the opera's instrumental ensemble, composed of Jeffrey Raskin, Allan Goldman, Jon Dutton, James Campbell, Elinor Monahan and Lester Weil, all UCSD students.

The first half of the June 5 concert will feature a program of new music for trombone by Stuart Dempster, trombonist. Dempster has played in concert extensively in California, has premiered a number of new works for trombone and has toured the United States, Canada and Europe as lecturer and recitalist. Since 1967 he has been at the University of Buffalo as a creative associate under Lukas Foss.

The concert is open to the public and admission is free.