

Performance of Robert Ashley's opera "Kit Carson", and lecture

March 30, 1972

"Kit Carson," an opera which comments on the institution of opera by experimental composer Robert Ashley will be presented at the University of California, San Diego at 8:30 p.m., Thursday, April 6.

Ashley will also discuss the opera situation at a seminar at noon the same day. Both events will be held in the Music Gallery, Bldg. 408, on the Matthews Campus, and are free and open to the public.

The opera is written for 35 speakers and singers with simple staging and is hoped to challenge both participants and audience alike.

Composer and pianist, Ashley was born in 1930. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and of the Manhattan School of Music. He is currently professor of music at Mills College in Oakland, a post he has held since 1969.

He was a co-founder of ONCE, an annual festival of contemporary music in Ann Arbor, Michigan (1961-68), as well as co-founder of the Cooperative Studio for Electronic Music in Ann Arbor (1958-66). He was Director of the CNCE Group, an ensemble of musicians, dancers, actors, and film-makers that toured extensively in the United States and Europe (1963-68).

Ashley is currently a member of the Sonic Arts Union, a performance ensemble devoted to works of electronic music theater. He has extensive experience as a sound-engineer, both in the field of equipment design, and in the motion picture industry, where he has produced sound-tracks for over 50 educational, documentary, and experimental films.

Ashley's music is published by Composer/Performer Editions and has been recorded on Advance, ESP, CBS Odyssey, and Mainstream Records, and includes "in memoriam ... CRAZY HORSE" (a symphony), "The Wolfman," "She Was a Visitor," and "Purposeful Lady Slow Afternoon."

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