

## "THE" to perform at UCSD's Mandeville Auditorium

**November 18, 1988**

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(THE) TO PERFORM AT UCSD ON NOVEMBER 29

Ed Harkins and Phil Larson of the composing/performing team (THE) will bring their antic and avant-garde music cum theatrics to the Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego on Tuesday, November 29 at 8 p.m.

Reputed for their refusal to take themselves seriously--they've been dubbed virtuosos of the visual and aural non-sequitur--the duo will be armed with a number of new compositions for the trumpet and voice. But, as is often the case with this group, they plan to keep the identity and description of the works under wraps until the evening of the concert.

"They like mystery and surprises," explains (THE) manager and sound engineer Bonnie Harkins.

Nonetheless, she did indicate that Harkins plans to give a unique demonstration of how to play the trumpet--an act he is turning into a book on contemporary trumpet techniques.

Although the two UCSD professors of music are accomplished musicians, quite at home with classical compositions, they prefer to infuse their concerts with comedy, satire, parody and their unconventional musical inventions.

"We're not talking about notes and scales on staff paper--what they do is more along the line of theater. What they do is kind of bigger than traditional composing," Bonnie Harkins explains.

Harkins and Larson are inveterate collaborators. Not only do they collaborate with each other as a matter of course, but they've worked in tandem with such musical innovators as John Cage and Toru Takemitsu.

They use their rehearsal time to create new musical patterns and sometimes to prerecord basic elements, both of which serve as the "structure" for their on-stage improvisation. In Bonnie Harkins' words, "they plan what they'll improvise during rehearsal."

Many of their compositions are original, but not all. Sometimes they'll borrow a theme from other composers and then alter it to make it their own. For example, says Bonnie Harkins, "they may need a disco beat or something jazzy or they'll borrow something from ethnic tradition or Tibetan monks."

The result of this unconventional process is an evening of contradictions: their concerts can mix avant-garde, jazz, rock, traditional and ethnic music; they can contain the abstract and the concrete, the serious and the humorous, the absurd and the meaningful.

Their credo is sharing, they wrote in program notes accompanying an earlier performance. "Sharing--not only with other composers but also certain intrinsic understandings with audiences, including the perplexity of meaning, the importance of humor, and the celebration of 'old friends,' 'new arrivals,' and coincidence.

Harkins, a trumpeter recognized for his openness to non-traditional forms and sounds, and Larson, a vocalist known for his mastery of unusual sounds, began working together as Rockefeller Fellows at UCSD's Center for Music Experiment in the early 1970s. Since giving birth to (THE) in 1976, they have given more than 350 concerts, 75 workshops, 50 radio and TV performances and performed in eight countries, 20 states and 80 cities.

Tickets for the University Events presentation are \$11 general admission, \$9 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, and \$7 for students. They are available through TicketMaster outlets. For more information, call 534-4559.

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