

Harry Partch will give two concerts

April 24, 1968

A concert by noted composer Harry Partch will be presented in the University of California, San Diego Art Gallery on Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and May 12 at 8:30 p.m. The program is sponsored by the UCSD Department of Music, where Partch was Regents' Professor during the fall quarter, 1967.

In the past 40 years Partch has been writing in his highly individualized style for instruments uniquely his own. As a young American composer, Partch rejected at least one of the mainstays of western music, the "equal temperament" tuning system of 12 tones to the octave, in favor of a system of scales based on "just intonation," an acoustical division of the octave into 43 or more tones.

In his book "Genesis of Music," published by the University of Wisconsin Press, Partch sets forth the principles of his theoretical system, which offered "pure" intervals and exotic scales not possible in conventional western music.

Also reflecting the composer's inventiveness are the Partch musical instruments, largely of his own manufacture and for which he writes almost exclusively. They are made from wood, glass and metal and are primarily percussion and plucked-string types.

A philosophy of music has grown out of his active concern for communication between himself and others as he tells stories using music, drama and dance. He aims at a "total theater" objective and often uses films in his work. Not wanting to be confined to a musical tradition of European tastes and styles, Partch believes in a music that grows from an awareness of world-wide and millenium-old cultures.

The May concert will include "Castor and Pollux," and "Daphne of the Dunes," both choreographed by Susan Long; "Two Studies on Ancient Greek Scales;" a film entitled "Rotate the Body;" and "Time of Fun Together" from Partch's recent work "Delusion of the Fury," choreographed by Judith Mullen. Thomas Nee of the UCSD Department of Music will direct the program, and Partch will provide an introductory commentary to the performances.

The concert is open to the public; no admission charge.