

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND PUBLIC PERFORMING ARTS

CG7  
1985  
4-17

presents

The Contemporary Group  
William O. Smith and Stuart Dempster, co-directors

performing

MUSIC FOR FOUR PIANOS  
(Music for Piano, 1-84)

by

Tapes 10,817, 10,818

JOHN CAGE

#a-073-box 127  
PHONOTAPE  
CG7 1985 4.17  
Reel 1-2

1:17 TOTAL

Wednesday, April 17, 1985, 8:00 P.M.

Studio Theater, Meany Hall

Neal Meyer, piano (Music for Piano 1 and 53-68)  
Aaron Keyt, piano (Music for Piano 2 and 4-19)  
Keith Eisenbrey, piano (Music for Piano 3 and (21-52)\*)  
Lise Mann, Piano (Music for Piano 20 and 69-84)

Performance conception by Neal Meyer

Lights by Kurt Smith

\* Music for Piano 21-52 performed with the assistance of the other players.

Program Notes

The series of compositions entitled "Music for Piano" was composed by John Cage between 1952 and 1956. I-Ching-derived chance operations were used to determine dynamics, clefs and methods of articulation. Placement of noteheads on the staff was determined by the locations of imperfections noticed by Cage in the manuscript paper on which he worked. The composer leaves a large number of musical decisions to the performer(s). In most of the pieces dynamics, pedals, durations of the notes and duration of the piece are unspecified. Rhythmic relationships, though suggested by the spatial relationships of the notes on the page, are likewise free. A performance of "Music for Piano" may utilize any number of pianists from one to eighty-four. Any number of the pieces may be used in any order, and, in the case of multiple pianists, may be overlapped.

All eighty-four compositions will be played in this evening's performance, either as solos, or else simultaneously with one, two or three other pieces. Ordering and overlapping of the pieces were determined by chance operations. In the spirit of the work, further aspects of tonight's performance, such as the arrangement of the four pianos in the space, the association of a particular performer with a particular piano, and the lighting design have also been determined by chance.

The University of Washington gratefully acknowledges Digital Equipment Corporation for donating computer resources to assist in automating ticket sales.

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