

Summergarden The Museum of Modern Art

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PERF. DATES: SEPT. 20 and 21

EMMETT "THE STICK" CHAPMAN PLAYS REVOLUTIONARY 'TOUCHBOARD[®]' AT SUMMERGARDEN

EMMETT CHAPMAN, West Coast musician-inventor, plays improvisational works on his revolutionary "electric stick" at 8 PM, Friday and Saturday, September 20 and 21 in The Museum of Modern Art's SUMMERGARDEN. Free admission is through the Sculpture Garden gate at 8 West 54 Street.

CHAPMAN has developed a patented ten-stringed Touchboard[®] called THE CHAPMAN STICK[®] which combines the basic structure of guitar, the finger attack and pitch range of piano, and the dynamic flexibility of electronic synthesizer. With a unique concept for tuning the five bass strings in ascending fifths and the five melody strings in descending fourths, and with both hands active in direct production of sound, Chapman can simultaneously play independent bass, chords and melody.

Chapman's music has been called "compositional-improvisation". It is stylistically eclectic and employs "the stick's" technical and dynamic range from Bachian counterpoint, Eastern sitar-like lines with bass drones, blues note-bending and "walking" bass to intricate free-form jazz improvisation and explosive rock effects.

"...a major artist, perhaps the first of the decade of the 70's, Emmett Chapman is in a direct linear evolution from Jimi Hendrix and John McLaughlin. In fact, what he is now doing with his new instrument is just as important as the improvisation and compositions John Coltrane was creating in the 1960's."

-- J. C. Thomas, author of CHASIN' THE TRANE,
due from Doubleday in April, 1975

"...the most potentially important development of the decade in the realm of electric music." -- Peter Occhiogrosso, The Soho Weekly News

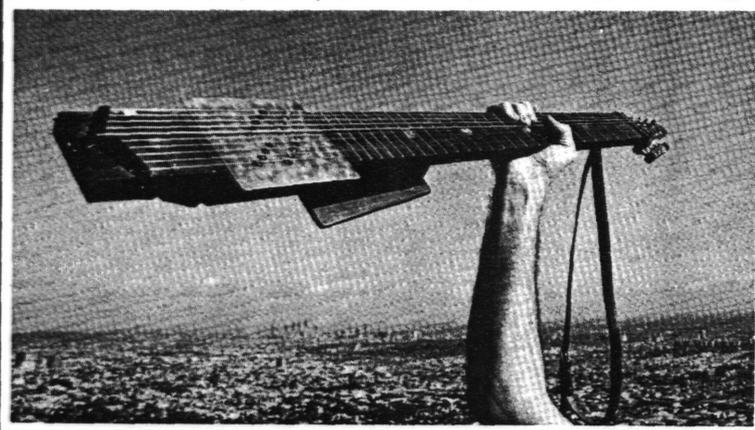
"...such a revolutionary instrument in the hands of such a revolutionary artist is an unbeatable combination."

-- Jim Crockett, Editor-publisher, GUITAR PLAYER

SUMMERGARDEN is made possible by a grant from Mobil Oil Corporation

Additional information available from Earl Hatleberg, Summergarden Coordinator, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7504 or 956-7501.

EMMETT

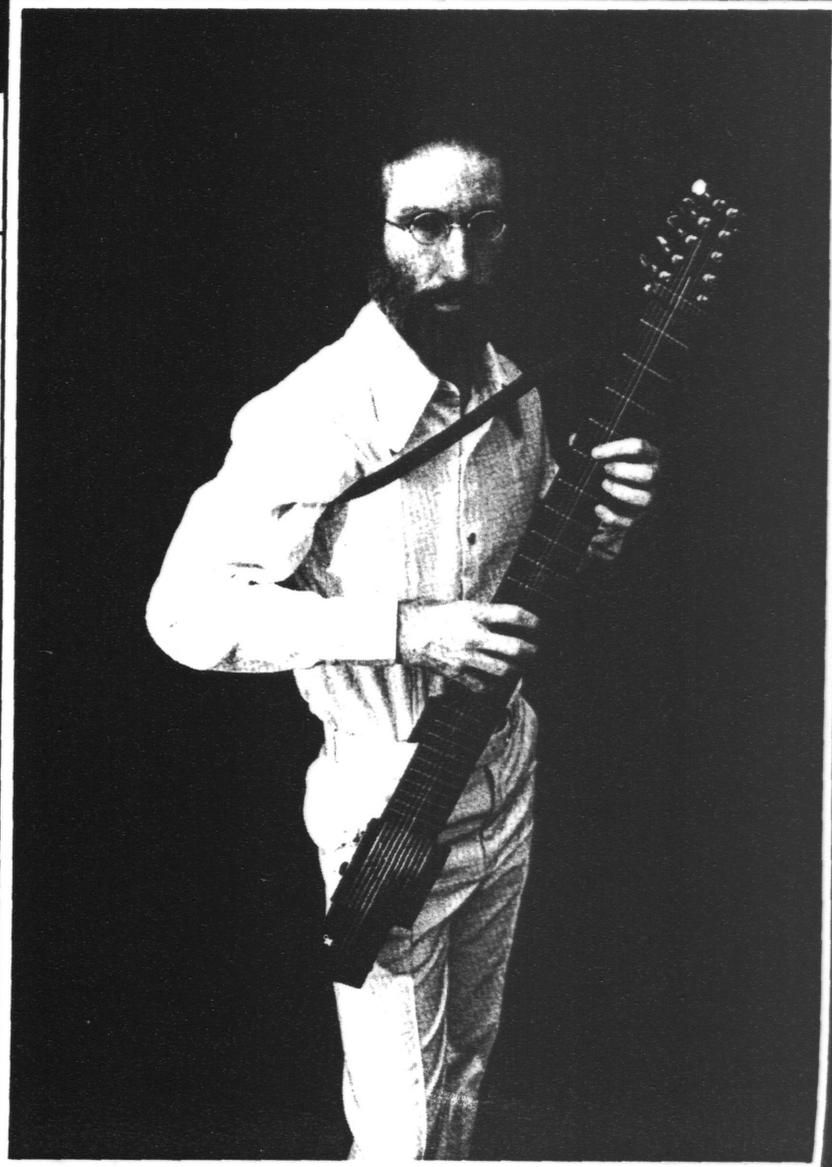


Emmett Chapman is primarily a musician, whose role as an inventor arose from the need for a more perfect instrument of expression. Originally a guitarist, Emmett envisioned an instrument that had the wide-ranging solo capabilities of piano and still preserved the string bending, sliding and vibrato of guitar. In 1970, after many changes in guitar methods and tuning, he devised, and later patented, an in-

strument that is orchestral. Completely eliminating the use of picking or plucking, he has developed a method of tapping the strings against the frets with both hands independently active. This enables him to play bass and chords, or counterpoint, with one hand while playing melody and chords with the other. While his left hand is controlling the structure of bass and chords, his right hand is free for an infinite variety of melodic effects.

The Electric Stick is a ten-string *Touchboard*, melody strings tuned in descending fourths, bass and chord strings tuned in ascending fifths, a symmetrical tuning concept with visible and logical patterns of chord and scale. Range extends below electric or concert bass and above guitar. All musical disciplines are possible on The Stick; Bachian counterpoint, jazz arrangements with walking bass, fiery rock effects, and Eastern Sitar-like lines with bass drones.

The demands of a far-reaching musical scope have led Emmett Chapman to a musical innovation—an original alternative solo instrument with a two-handed technique unique among stringed instruments.



the STICK



Emmett Chapman • 8320 YUCCA TRAIL • LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90048 • (213) 449-4444