



Summergarden

June 1985
For Immediate Release

SUMMERGARDEN RETURNS WITH "THE GARDEN OF HARPS"

The sound of strings will fill the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden of The Museum of Modern Art when SUMMERGARDEN returns on July 5th, 1985. The Museum's 1985 series of free performances commences with THE GARDEN OF HARPS, an ensemble of fifteen classical harps that will be arranged along the northern edge of the Sculpture Garden's west fountain. The event will feature the premiere performance of String Foliage, a work by R.I.P. Hayman, and will also include works by John Cage, Wendy Chambers, and Charles Morrow.

According to Hayman, String Foliage, which was commissioned for the SUMMERGARDEN opening, treats the harps "as flowering plants nurtured to blossom," and the harpists as "following a musical gardening score." Hayman is a multi-talented composer and sinologist, and an editor of Ear Magazine. His work experience ranges from audio research and subway ear-plug sales, to hotel management and bartending. He has appeared on a variety of radio and television programs, including To Tell the Truth and Midnight Blue, as well as on the All India Radio, China Broadcasting, and Denmark Radio stations. Hayman's compositions are as varied as his lifestyle. He has composed for percussion, tape, ocarinas, wind, fire, and telephones, as well as for traditional orchestral instruments. Hayman has performed in New York at the Experimental Intermedia Foundation, The Kitchen, La Mama, and in Beijing at The Great Hall of the People. He has collaborated with dancers Z'eva Cohen and Ruby Shang, and with Salvador Dali.

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**Friday and Saturday evenings in the Sculpture Garden of
The Museum of Modern Art are made possible by a grant from Mobil**

John Cage, composer, author, performer, and philosopher, has been widely recognized as one of the most influential artists of this century. At SUMMERGARDEN the harpists will perform Cage's Postcard from Heaven. The New Yorker wrote about this piece: "John Cage's heaven is far away and somewhat eerie, and the postcard from that region (is) appropriately ethereal." Cage's music was first performed at The Museum of Modern Art forty-two years ago, in February of 1943, at a concert which Cage himself conducted. Cage's recent projects have included a March 1985 concert at Carnegie Hall, and touring and performing with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in England, France, and Turkey.

Composer Wendy Chambers will present a piece entitled Pluck. Tim Page of The New York Times described the piece as "sonic gigantism," and said, "Ms. Chambers strives for the epic." Since Chambers's work is concerned with unique environmental acoustics, Pluck has been specifically adapted to the Sculpture Garden. Chambers often works in large-scale musical and visual contexts. She composed Music for Choreographed Rowboats in which twenty-four costumed musicians performed while rowing through the Central Park Lake; One World Persuasion, which was performed by fifty musicians in the World Trade Center Plaza; and 10 Grand, which was written for ten grand pianos and performed at the Lincoln Center Plaza. A recipient of two Composers Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Chambers is president of Artmusic Inc. and executive producer of the PBS weekly series Videoville. In 1984 her work was featured on the Ripley's Believe It Or Not television program.

Charles Morrow will present a piece entitled wave #7. The piece is concerned with balance, says the composer, and was written in celebration of the fall equinox. Morrow made his debut as a composer at Town Hall in 1964, and has since presented programs at Carnegie Recital Hall, the San Francisco

Opera House, and many other concert halls throughout the United States and Europe. Morrow recently conducted more than 6,000 musicians in a mass concert which opened the Fifth Copenhagen International Theatre Festival. Other past presentations have included annual solstice celebrations, A Concert for Fish, and Hot Air Balloon Music. In 1973 Morrow cofounded the New Wilderness Foundation, an organization which "provides a framework for bringing people together...people of diverse cultures, ages, and backgrounds, as well as concert hall mixtures of poetry, music, dance, and theater." In addition, the foundation is known for its publications, artist-access sound studio, archive, and radio productions. Morrow also is active in the field of commercial music. Advertising "music and sound for anything," Charles Morrow and Associates have produced well-known jingles for Windsong Perfume and "Take the Train to the Plane" advertisements.

On Wednesday, July 3, the composers in THE GARDEN OF HARPS will be featured on the noon radio program Around New York, on WNYC (FM 94). Through the SUMMERGARDEN series the Museum's Sculpture Garden is open free to the public on Friday and Saturday nights in July and August, from 6 to 10 p.m. Performances are scheduled for Friday nights at 8 p.m. In the event of rain, performances will be held the following evening (Saturday) at 8 p.m. Entrance begins at 6 p.m. through the Garden Gate at 14 West 54 Street, between Fifth Avenue and The Avenue of the Americas. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Refreshments will be available at the Garden Cafe.

SUMMERGARDEN is made possible by a grant from Mobil. Project director for the series is Andrew B. Caploe; associate project director is Peter Pretsfelder.

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For more information contact the SUMMERGARDEN office at (212) 708-9850 or the Department of Public Information at (212) 708-9750.