



Summergarden

LAWRENCE "BUTCH" MORRIS

The Museum of Modern Art's SUMMERGARDEN series of free events in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden continues on Friday, July 26, with the world premiere of new works conducted by composer Lawrence "Butch" Morris. Morris will lead an ensemble of fourteen performers in four new pieces for violin, viola, cello, bass, English horn, bassoon, and percussion. SUMMERGARDEN is made possible by a grant from Mobil, the series' sponsor for nine seasons in the seventies.

Morris has worked in a variety of contexts, composing for what Robert Palmer has described in the New York Times as "rich allusive instrumental combinations," as well as performing on cornet with his own and other contemporary ensembles. Morris has earned a reputation for creating unusual musical events such as programming Beethoven String Quartets with his own compositions, and conducting large-scale groups of improvising musicians.

Morris's SUMMERGARDEN performance will feature premieres of four new works which utilize three compositional processes of his own devise: "Crayon," in which "horizontal" musical phrases are interpreted "vertically;" "Forecast," which makes a musical phrase indeterminate in length without changing the tempo or rhythm; and "Polar Harmony," which creates a harmonic system that is "opposite in character, yet mobile by nature."

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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**

These systems comprise a structure in which the conductor directs the ensemble's improvisations on the composer's initial thoughts. About his own distinctive conducting style Morris has said: "Even when you're walking in the dark in your own house you still put out your hands to guide your way."

The musicians who will interpret Morris's work for this occasion include violinists Billy Bang and Sonia Robinson; violist Jason Hwang; cellist Akua Dixon; bassists Brian Smith and Wilber Morris; percussionists Warren Smith, Wilson Moorman, and Thurman Barker; bassoonist Karen Borca; and English horn player John Purcell. An additional violinist, violist, and cellist will be announced.

Morris has taught at The Royal Conservatory in Liege, the Bunker Music Foundation in Rotterdam, and the Creative Music Studio in Woodstock, N.Y. The New York City Artists Collective, led by vocalist Ellen Christi and percussionist Tom Bruno, has recorded Morris's compositions, and the readers of down beat magazine have voted him "Arranger Deserving Wider Recognition" three times in the past four years.

Morris collaborates frequently with artists of other disciplines, travelling across the United States and Europe. Among the artists with whom he has worked are choreographers Dianne McIntyre, Sally Silvers, and Alvin Ailey; painter A.R. Penck; poet Alan Graubard; and performance artists Jessica Hagedorn. The musicians with whom he has performed and recorded include Rhys Chatham, Tom Cora, Gil Evans, Wayne Horvitz, Steve Lacy, Jemeel Moondoc, Elliot Sharp, Cecil Taylor, Charles Tyler, and John Zorn. He is perhaps best known as the conductor and musical codirector of the David Murray Big Band, which recently performed at Town Hall. Morris has presented his own work in several other New York

venues including the Kitchen, Roulette, Jazztrack, The Third Street Music School, the Sound Unity Festival, Soundscape, The Public Theater, P.S. 1, the New Museum, Cuando, and the now-defunct Tin Palace.

The music of Butch Morris will be featured on Wednesday, July 24, on the noon radio program "Around New York" in a segment hosted by Brooke Wentz on WNYC (FM 94).

Admission to SUMMERGARDEN is free on a first-come, first-served basis. Entrance begins at 6 p.m. both Friday and Saturday evening through the Garden Gate at 14 West 54 Street, between Fifth Avenue and The Avenue of the Americas. In the event of rain, Friday night performances are held the following evening (Saturday) at 8 p.m. Refreshments are available at the Garden Cafe.

SUMMERGARDEN project director is Andrew B. Caploe; associate project director is Peter S. Pretsfelder.

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Coming to SUMMERGARDEN:

- August 2 Eya Aranla (Drums and Chants) Ensemble: A Santeria ceremony with three bata drummers and a chorus of fifteen led by Milton Cardona
- August 9 Pooh Kaye's The Eccentric Motions; New York premieres of dances choreographed to music by John Zorn and friends
- August 16 An evening with clown Bob Berky and friends
- August 23 Linda Mussmann's Time and Space Limited: A sound and movement work created especially for the Garden
- August 30 The Art Ensemble of Chicago: A performance in celebration of the group's twenty years together (the sole amplified event of the series)

No. 58

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