



For Immediate Release  
August 1985

**Summergarden**  
THE ART ENSEMBLE OF CHICAGO

SUMMERGARDEN, The Museum of Modern Art's series of free evenings in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden, will conclude its 1985 season on Friday, August 30, with an amplified event by The Art Ensemble of Chicago. The five critically acclaimed members of the ensemble are saxophonists Joseph Jarman and Roscoe Mitchell, trumpeter Lester Bowie, bassist Malachi Favors Maghostut, and percussionist Famodou Don Moya. SUMMERGARDEN is made possible by a grant from Mobil, sponsor of the series for nine seasons in the seventies.

Performing under the banner "Great Black Music--Ancient to the Future," The Art Ensemble of Chicago plays African tribal chants, spirituals, rhythm and blues, swing, bebop, hard bop, free jazz, avant garde, out, minimalism, postmodern cacophony, and funk, incorporating aspects of theater, mime, dance, poetry, humor, and magic into its performances. The musicians' costumes range from street clothes and laboratory coats to tribal paint and headdresses. Gary Giddins of The Village Voice describes an Art Ensemble performance as "...one vignette blending into the next with scrupulous illogic, as they deftly (and collectively) mimic and parody various musical schools while obliterating the putative boundary lines between them."

The Art Ensemble evolved from a movement led by pianist Muhal Richard Abrams and his group, The Experimental Band, that was based in Chicago. The group attracted a number of experimental musicians, including Bowie, Favors, Jarman, and Mitchell, who eventually established the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians in 1965. The AACM sought to provide support

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**Friday and Saturday evenings in the Sculpture Garden of  
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for the exchange of new ideas and resources as well as to enable contemporary black composers to present their music in a dignified way.

In 1967 a small Chicago label, Nessa, released the first record of the four original members of the Art Ensemble. From 1968 until 1971 the band was based in Europe, and when they joined forces with Don Moye in Paris, The Art Ensemble of Chicago was formally created.

Admission to SUMMERGARDEN is free, on a first-come, first-served basis. On Friday and Saturday evening the Garden is open from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., and the performance takes place on Friday evening only, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Admission to the performance is EXTREMELY limited. In the event of rain, the performance is postponed until the following evening (Saturday) at 8:00 p.m. Entrance to SUMMERGARDEN is through the Garden Gate at 14 West 54 Street, between Fifth Avenue and the Avenue of the Americas. Refreshments are available at the Garden Cafe. For visitor information call 212/708-9880 or 212/708-9500.

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

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