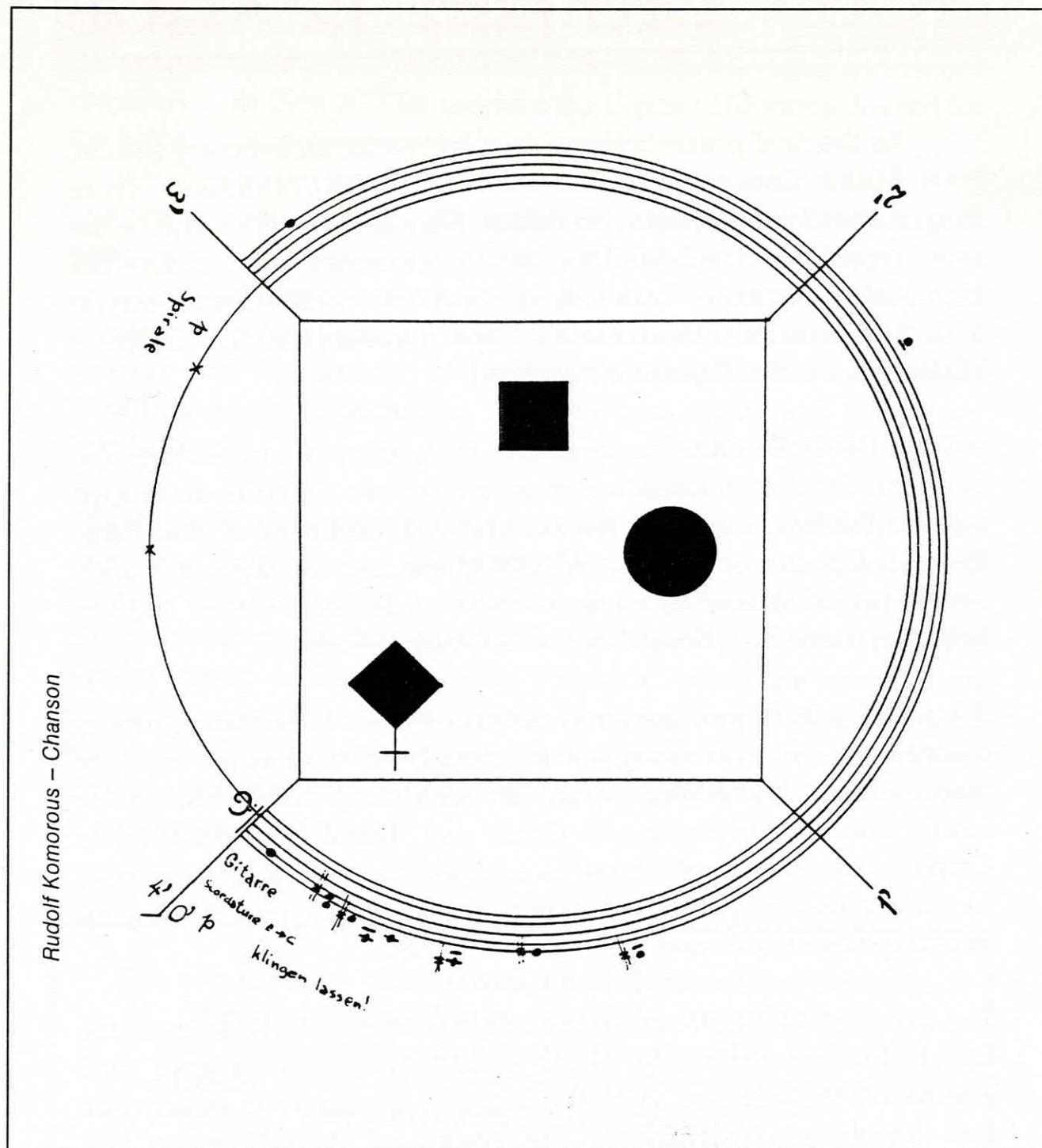


new music concerts presents:
AGON Orchestra PRAGUE



8:00pm friday may 24 1996
premiere dance theatre

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As the final presentation of its twenty-fifth anniversary season, **New Music Concerts** presents the **AGON ORCHESTRA** from **Prague**, the Czech Republic, on **Friday, May 24, 1996**. This will be the final engagement of AGON's North American tour, following appearances at New York's *Bang On A Can* festival, the *Festival Musique Actuelle* in Victoriaville, and a concert at the *Chapelle Historique du Bon Pasteur* in Montreal.

AGON ORCHESTRA was formed in 1988, as a platform for a group of young Czech composers and musicians whose activities developed outside the boundaries of the cultural establishment of that time. Besides Czech composers, AGON presented numerous Czech premieres of works by composers such as John Cage, Morton Feldman, Arvo Pärt, Steve Reich and Giacinto Scelsi.

After 1989 AGON produced and performed several thematic concerts centred on on avant-garde and cross-over tendencies in new music—from *Micro-tonal Music*, through *Czech New Music of the 1960s* and *An Anthology of Czech and World Avant-Garde*, to *Graphic and Conceptual Scores*, as well as the program *Alternative*, in which AGON presented experimental works by Czech rock musicians and visual and performance artists.

The members of AGON come from diverse backgrounds such as the Czech Philharmonic, the State Opera and modern jazz and alternative rock circles. With the help of a combination of acoustic and amplified instruments the sound of AGON gains the aggressiveness of a rock band together with the precision of a chamber ensemble performing classical music.

AGON has to date appeared both on small domestic stages and at prestigious international festivals in Austria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, England and the United States and has produced a number of recordings for radio, television and record companies. In 1994 AGON received the Golden Harmony Award for the best CD of contemporary Czech music.

The ten members of AGON, under the direction of **Petr Kofron**, perform on a variety of woodwind, brass and stringed instruments as well as keyboards, percussion, and electric guitars. They will perform compositions by their fellow instrumentalists: *Rent a Ricercar* and *Euphonium* by **Martin Smolka**, *Hard Life* and *Your Time Lies Ahead* by **Miroslav Simacek** and *Abram* and *Enhexe* by **Petr Kofron**.

AGON will also perform two works by the Czech-Canadian composer and teacher **Rudolph Komorous**. *Sweet Queen* and *Chanson* were composed in Prague during the mid-1960s and reflect his involvement at that time with the absurdist aesthetic of the *Smidra* group of Czech painters ("Smidra" being the name of an obtusely moronic character from Czech folklore). According to Komorous, *The credo of our Smidra group was to use bizzare elements, to push things to an edge where you didn't know whether it was serious or not.*

The concert takes place at **8:00 pm** at Harbourfront Centre's **Premiere Dance Theatre** and will be preceeded by an **introduction** in the theatre at **7:15**.

Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$9 for students and seniors.

For **reservations** please call the Harbourfront Box Office at **973-4000**.

