

music

ON JANUARY 7, I made my first visit to the Kitchen, where they have been giving a series of new music concerts. Apparently the space used to be a large kitchen, but now it has been fixed up acoustically and equipped with tape decks, television screens, loudspeakers, and amplifiers.

The two pieces by Jon Gibson presented that night were both very loud, static, electronic pieces, somewhat in the vein of La Monte Young or Phil Glass—although they had neither the obsessiveness of the former nor the finesse of the latter. They did sound very good, though, and the visuals created on television screens by Dimitri Devyatkin

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were some of the best I have seen. He somehow managed to superimpose abstract patterns, wave motions, and shots of the musicians in a very effective way.

Gibson's "Voice/Tape Delay" is one of those pieces made by setting up two tape recorders so that one records while the other plays back the same thing a short time later. All you need to do is make occasional sounds into the microphone, keep a watchful eye on the meters, and let the machines and their feedback do the rest. And, as in Gibson's piece, the results are often extraordinary to listen to. But it's sort of like a spirograph drawing. Once you know how easy it is to do, it's hard to be impressed.

Gibson's "Untitled Piece for Cymbals, Bells, Drums, Flutes, and Oscillators" blended sus-

tained amplified sounds quite effectively. But after a while the loud rich texture was not enough, and I began to wish that the drum rhythms and flute lines had been worked out more carefully.

But perhaps it is unfair to criticize the music on that level, since the musicians were all relatively young and it could be considered a kind of workshop situation. The important thing is that the Kitchen provides composers and media freaks with a well-equipped place to work. And judging from the current schedule, there will be a lot of work going on there.

—Tom Johnson

Violin Debut

Violinist Annie Kavafian will be presented in her New York debut by Concert Artists Guild on Tuesday, January 25, at 8.30 p. m. at Carnegie Recital Hall, assisted by pianist Alan Marks. The program will include works by Beethoven, Rossini, Faure, Webern, and Ravel. Miss Kavafian will be joined by violinist Ida Kavafian, cellist Warren Lash, and bassist Julius Levine in Rossini's Sonata No. 5.