

playbill

I II III ACT IV

MIEKO SHIOMI - A CELESTIAL TUNE BY 108 GLASS MARBLES

.... FOR MY MOTHER'S SOUL....

(OCT. 1991) DURATION 5'45

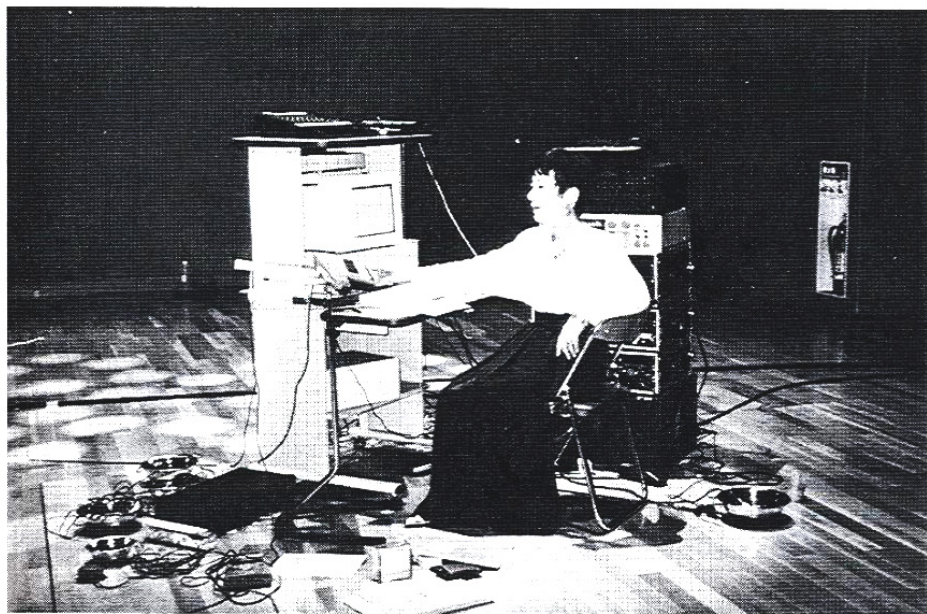
"I placed one hundred and eight glass marbles on the piano strings and metal board around them. Each time I hit the key, the marbles bounce or move around the strings. And they play a tune, but it never came out the same."

"In Japan we have a traditional ceremony to play bells of the temples one hundred and eight times from midnight of dec. 31 until new year.

It's to purify one hundred and eight mundane desires which humane kind is thought to have by nature.

I want to dedicate this music to my mother who passed away in last december."

(Mieko Shiomi)



Mieko Shiomi at Xebec Hall, Kobe, Japan 1991

The final act of playbill's first series is an evening of musical compositions by artist, composer and performer Mieko Shiomi. Born in 1938, Shiomi is most-known for her substantial contribution to the Fluxus movement, where her investigations into the nature and limits of sound, music and auditory experience began as a student in Tokyo in the late 1950s, during which time she co-founded the seminal postwar Japanese experimental music collective Group Ongaku.

Central to Shiomi's body of work is the creation of Fluxus editions—printed matter often taking the form of instruction cards and action invitations—and events, for which she gained most recognition in 1960s and 70s after relocating temporarily

to New York in 1964 on the invitation of George Maciunas. During this time she began scoring 'action poems,' most notably Spatial Poem (1965), whereby she removed musical notation from the score entirely, instead favouring verbal instructions that were to be interpreted by the performer.

At the age of eighty-four Shiomi continues to make new work that incorporates musical score with linguistic instruction and spoken word. For this event, which takes Torpedo Theater's upright piano as cue, an earlier piece of Shiomi's will be played alongside the performance of three more recent works, in particular a new piece scored specifically for the playbill audience in

January of this year. To mark this special occasion, an edition of the instruction piece has been produced with Shiomi and our designer Maud Vervenne, and will be gifted to the audience who will in turn complete the piece.

PROGRAMME

8pm
Introduction to Shiomi's work

8.10pm—Composition 1
A CELESTIAL TUNE BY
108 GLASS MARBLES...
FOR MY MOTHER'S SOUL...
1991, 5:45min

8.20pm—Composition 2
Falling Event for a Pianist
2022, 6:30min
Performed by Daniil Pilchen
Narrated by Judith Vrancken
(This piece was originally written for grand piano but has been adapted for upright piano)

8.30pm—Composition 3
Audience Piece for Playbill
2023, approximately 8min
Performed by Daniil Pilchen
Conducted by Koen Nutters

8.40pm—Composition 4
A Confined Sonata
2014/2023, approximately 8min
Performed by Daniil Pilchen
Inside piano played by Marielle Groven and Koen Nutters
(This piece was originally written for grand piano but has been adapted for upright piano)

8.55pm—Drinks

IMAGE Work description of A CELESTIAL TUNE BY 108 GLASS MARBLES... FOR MY MOTHER'S SOUL..., written by Mieko Shiomi and accompanied by performance documentation. Published in *Fluxus Anthology*, Vol. Slowscan, Vol. 17 A ('s-Hertogenbosch: Slowscan editions, 2004).

COLOPHON Torpedo Theater is a long-running, thirty-seat theatre in the heart of Amsterdam's city centre. Originally founded by *Het Parool*, a Dutch national newspaper, the theatre has been committed to the spoken, written and performed word from the beginning. playbill is an event-based project invested in the presentation of experimental language and text-based artistic works on the (small) stage. It is curated by Martha Jager and Isabelle Sully, and designed by Maud Vervenne. playbill: ACT IV has been made possible thanks to the Amsterdams Fonds voor de Kunst, Gemeente Amsterdam Stadsdeel Centrum and Mieko Shiomi. This playbill and the accompanying edition for ACT IV has been printed by Terry Bleu, Amsterdam.