



After having produced, with Conlon Nancarrow, his complete works for player piano—first on LPs for Thomas Buckner's 1750 Arch Records label in Berkeley and then on CD for Wergo Schallplatten, Mainz—I regretted not having been able to complete the project with the very last works of this singular figure in 20th century music (and a seminal one for the 21st century). This recording is a step in that direction and I hope an illuminating one to those who are devotees of his masterful and intricately complex music, produced by hand-punching holes in virgin pianola rolls.

In addition, there were occasional recordings Nancarrow sent me (and other friends) of his peripheral works: a *Piece for Tape*, a study for "prepared" player piano, and his realizations for that instrument of his *Sonatina for Piano* and *String Quartet No. 1*, which he didn't wish to include in his published collections of studies but which kept coming up in conversation with his colleagues. As no retrospective overview of his work would be complete without these examples of his explorations, *Other Minds* offers them now in the spirit of investigation which prompted their creation.

Nancarrow's warmly personal voice comes alive on the concluding tracks, recorded in 1977 after the conclusion of our Arch Records project. Until that time he rarely had consented to recording interviews but was such a charming participant, one wonders why he had made himself so unavailable. I suspect many will find this segment quite moving, as it portrays Nancarrow's self-deprecating modesty in juxtaposition with his heroic, hermetic quest to expand our musical capacities, tracing his own pathway to the unprecedented results.

Charles Amirkhanian
Executive Producer



Liner notes by Kyle Gass

OM 1002-2

www.otherminds.org

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| 1 | Prelude for Piano (1935) | 1'00 |
| 2 | Blues for Piano (1935) | 2'20 |
| 3-5 | Sonatina for Piano (1941) | 4'02 |
| 6-7 | String Quartet No. 1 (1945) | 4'33 |
| 8 | Piece for Tape (undated) | 2'04 |
| 9 | Study No. 30 for Prepared Piano (undated) | 2'58 |
| 10 | Para Yoko (1990) | 2'27 |
| 11 | Study No. 50 (ca. 1991) | 3'57 |
| 12 | Study No. 51 ("3750") (1992) | 1'25 |
| 13 | Contrapion No. 1 | 3'18 |
| 14-21 | Conlon Nancarrow speaks
with Charles Amirkhanian | |



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