

JOHN CAGE SHOCK series



Japanese calligraphy of the title "John Cage Shock" by 川村 龍俊 (Tatsutoshi Kawamura)



OMEGA POINT

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In October 1962 John Cage and his great interpreter/co-visionary David Tudor visited Japan, performing seven concerts and exposing listeners to new musical worlds. This legendary "**John Cage Shock**", as it was dubbed by the critic Hidekazu Yoshida (1913-2012), is the source of this series of releases, three CDs and a "best hits" double LP compilation. Recorded primarily at the Sogetsu Art Center in Tokyo on October 24, 1962 (with two performances from October 17 at Mido-Kaikan in Osaka), all recordings in this series are previously unreleased. A major historical trove, unearthed.

The performances on this tour featured Cage and Tudor with some noteworthy Japanese musicians playing pieces by Cage and a number of other composers. Volume 1 begins with Toru Takemitsu's *Corona for Pianists* (1962), played by Tudor and Yuji Takahashi, an indeterminate piece scored using transparencies, a sign of Cage's influence on younger Japanese composers of the era. Following this is *Duo for Violinist and Pianist* (1961) by Christian Wolff, written specifically for David Tudor and violinist Kenji Kobayashi. The final piece, a near-twenty-minute realization of *Variations II* (1961), is a rare example of the rougher side of Cage, work that presaged much of the live electronic music and noise of the following decades, an aspect of his oeuvre which is woefully under-represented on CD. Cage and Tudor, using well-amplified contact microphones on a piano, deliver an electrifying performance, alternating distorted stretches of harsh 60s reality with bountiful silences.

Volume 2 lifts off with a fiery example of Tudor's piano virtuosity, his mastery of dynamics well evident in a performance of *Klavierstück X* (1961) by Karlheinz Stockhausen. The titular shock of this series is delivered even more forcefully with the next piece, Cage's *26'55.988" for 2 Pianists and a String Player* (1961), which was first performed the year before in Darmstadt by Tudor and Kobayashi, a combination of two of Cage's solo pieces. The performance here, from Osaka, has a slightly altered title and the composition becomes a seismic quartet with the addition of Toshi Ichianagi and Yoko Ono, with the four performers providing acutely-angled blasts of sound.

The final CD of the series features Cage's *0'00"* (1962), also referred to as *4'33" No.2*, performed by the composer, with daily activities such as writing and drinking coffee amplified by contact microphones into sonic abstraction, following the score's directions: "with maximum amplification (no feedback), perform a disciplined action". Next is *Composition II for 2 Pianos* (1960/61) by Michael von Biel, lovely and sparse, performed by Tudor and Ichianagi. The disc closes with Ichianagi's *Music for Piano #7* (1961), performed also by Tudor and Ichianagi, beds of silence disrupted by pianistic stabs, music box madness, traffic recordings, percussive thumps, tape manipulations and more.

The "**John Cage Shock**" series features truly historical recordings, all previously unreleased, of compositions by an amazing roster of international composers. The intensity of these performances by Cage, Tudor, Ichianagi, Kobayashi, Ono and Takahashi has remained hidden and unheard for half a century, but remains undiminished. These three CDs, as well as the special double LP, feature rare photos plus Japanese and English liner notes.



Release date: **August 25 (Japan domestic)**
Expected shipping date to overseas: **August 15**

- + All tracks are previously unissued
- + Joint production of Omega Point + EM Records
- + Tribute to the John Cage centenary and the 50th anniversary for his first Japan tour
- + Many scarce photos
- + Japanese - English liner notes including a commentary by Toshi Ichianagi

<CD version>
Cardboard / gatefold paper jacket + obi + liner

<LP version>
2 x 12" LP, quality pressing + a large size liner
+ LP only bonus track



JOHN CAGE SHOCK Vol. 1

CATALOGUE #: EM1104CD (OP-0008)
FORMAT: CD
BAR CODE: 4560283211044

TRACK LISTING:

1. Toru Takemitsu - *Corona for Pianists* (9:34)
Performer: David Tudor (pf) + Yuji Takahashi (pf)
2. Christian Wolff - *Duo For Pianist & Violinist* (12:09)
Performer: David Tudor (pf) + Kenji Kobayashi (vn)
3. John Cage - *Variations II* (19:16)
Performer: David Tudor (pf) + John Cage (pf)



JOHN CAGE SHOCK Vol. 2

CATALOGUE #: EM1105CD (OP-0009)
FORMAT: CD
BAR CODE: 4560283211051

TRACK LISTING:

1. Karlheinz Stockhausen - *Klavierstück X* (19:39)
Performer: David Tudor (pf)
2. John Cage - *26'55.988" for 2 Pianists & a String Player* (22:41)
Performer: David Tudor (pf) + Toshi Ichianagi (pf) + Kenji Kobayashi (vn)
+ Yoko Ono (vo)



JOHN CAGE SHOCK Vol. 3

CATALOGUE #: EM1106CD (OP-0010)
FORMAT: CD
BAR CODE: 4560283211068

TRACK LISTING:

1. John Cage - *0'00"* (18:09)
Performer: John Cage
2. Michael von Biel - *Composition II for 2 Pianos* (6:12)
Performer: Toshi Ichianagi (pf) + David Tudor (pf)
3. Toshi Ichianagi - *Music for Piano #7* (14:59)
Performer: Toshi Ichianagi (pf) + David Tudor (pf)



JOHN CAGE SHOCK (vinyl edition)

CATALOGUE #: EM1107DLP (OP-0011)
FORMAT: 2 x 12" LP
BAR CODE: 4560283211075

TRACK LISTING:

- Side A: John Cage - *26'55.988" for 2 Pianists & a String Player*
Side B-1: Toshi Ichianagi - *Music for Piano #7*
B-2: **Geroge Brecht - *Incidental Music*** (LP only bonus track)
Side C: John Cage - *0'00"*
Side D: John Cage - *Variations II*