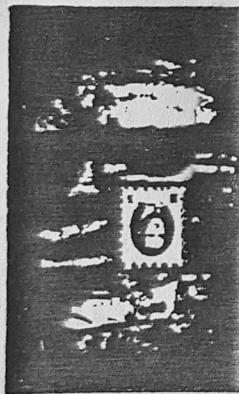


the improvisor

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Reportage is a trio from Poland that is developing a distinct stylistic approach. Their synthesis of the neo-classical free jazz of early ECM recordings with punky rock riffing is still evolving, but in it I hear a distinctly Eastern European sensibility emerging. Their endeavors are completely illegal in their native land although I'm sure that they would love to correspond and exchange tapes with members of the Improvisors Network. They can be contacted through Henryk Palczewski, UL Ludona 24/5, 64-920 Pila, Poland.

Peter Weiss sent me a tape of his group Hypnobeat. I particularly liked a piece called "Lunar Subway" which evoked a high tech hothouse atmosphere for saxophones and tapes souawked and scharped at each other through layers of lush, murky echo. Peter can be reached at Brunnenstr. 10, 6232 Bad Soden, TS., West Germany.

On the subject of innovation through alteration, I recently received a tape from Italy that fascinates me more with each listening. I strongly dislike most minimalist music and feel that attempts to combine it with rock are even worse, although such a description would fit Marco Cacciamanti's cassette, Step. Rather than the stultifying rapture of Phillip Glass, however, Cacciamanti's music is extremely energetic--to the point of hysteria at times. He also has an abrupt, even menacing sense of humor. In one piece, "War Kitchen (live texture)," he explores a territory that both improvisors and minimalists work with, but his approach is unique. Simple organ drones, occasional keyboard crashes and a repetitive rock beat are electronically modulated to produce strange undertones and overtones at the extremes of the frequency spectrum. The result is a frightening invocation to another realm. Cacciamanti can be contacted through RAT Multimedia Productions, c.p. 182, 16100 Genoa Centro (I) Italy.