

NOV 25

Dear Woody

Ok I know its been along time but my trip was only over yesterday when I finally returned to Liege after making attempts at fighting for my continued survival and existence. So to backtrack-- my plane was three hours late to Istanbul- but made it to Budapest that nite-- Judit had only returned from the hospital a few hours before and her eye ~~xxx~~ was very slowly improving. I spent two weeks in Budapest recovering. Csaba returned while I was there- didnt see him but he went with the money that ~~xxx~~ was left over the Lake Balaton resort! But fortunately Tibor in Budapest was not so surprised at the story- he had ahad some experiences himself and had thought to keep more distance. Then I was a few days in Prague and arrived in Berlin only to be warmly welcomed as a music composer! I stayed two weeks in Berlin, visited the eastern sector, and tried to see about support. I was surprised that after my mad escape that I felt so at home in Berlin- and of course the access to the east world is best from there. Then to Cologne where i met some composers, then I spent a few weeks in Holland checking out the possibilities. There's now a chance that the city of Rotterdam might provide me with a space and perhaps some support- I have an appointment with the culture ~~x~~ ministry on tuesday coming up-- so will see what happens.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ Csaba did bring my instruments back in one piece-- he lied to everyone about the trip and smiled to me when I came to pick them up. After I spent a day writing a two page letter single spaced outlining our feelings about his behavior, what we really thought of him, about your paying him to go back, all incidents, etc. It was good to finally get it all out- It was stuck in my head for so long.

Ive been writing and rewriting the proposal- so I thought id type up a version just to get some feedback about possible changes. So let me know what you think about it- it probably needs to be rewritten. I'd probably take the Rotterdam thing if its offered just to have a solid base for awhile- there's also a grant to go to Berlin which ill apply for. I have no telephone anymore and am mostly on the road somewhere so ill probably call you from a phone booth somewhere maybe collect just to find out if you recieved this.

Till then--- Love Arnold

Woody to Stella -

I nearly killed myself to make it  
but yes - it happened -

Alphonse was there in Vienna -  
if you call him maybe he can  
tell you about it!

So Stella - how's your German?  
Can you make heads or tails of this  
stuff?

We leave now for Munich & Dresden  
and after Easter ~~after~~ I can finally  
relax (We do the Who's Who there)  
The music group has a concert in NY  
in May ~~and~~ and I'll call you then  
Met Keiko Sei in Prag  
Totally exhausted!

Love  
Arvid



AUBREY J. DRUMMOND  
SCIENTIFIC PHOTOGRAPHER  
EXAMINER OF QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS  
ERASED WRITINGS - FINGERPRINTS  
46 FULTON STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

IM STILL HANGING AROUND WITH JAPANESE GIRL YOSHIKO THO SHE'S  
AMBITIOUS IN HER CAREER AND RUNNING AROUND WITH LOTS OF PEOPLE  
ALL THE TIME KEEPING ME ALWAYS A BIT MISERABLE. ~SOMETIMES  
ITS HARD TO IMAGINE WHAT SUSTAINS SOMEONE FOR YEARS AND YEARS.  
THE INSTRUMENT LOOKS SOMETHING LIKE A SMALLER VERSION OF THE  
ENCLOSED PICTURES-- THESE WERE BUILT BY HARRY PARTCH--HE DID  
PROBABLY MORE WORK IN INTONATION AND BUILDING INSTRUMENTS THAN  
ANYONE ELSE THO HIS MUSIC IS PRETTY AWFUL. HE WROTE QUITE AN  
EXTENSIVE TEXTBOOK ON HIS LIFEWOR. THERE CAN BE INDIVIDUAL  
BRIDGES FOR EACH STRING ALSO.

I TRY IN MY FRUSTRATION HANGING AROUND NIBLOCK'S LOFT AND THE  
EAR INN LOOKING FOR COMRADES AND/OR STIMULATION BUT I NEVER  
FIND VERY MUCH MORE THAN SHOOTING THE SHIT LIKE IN BUFFALO--  
MAYBE I ALWAYS EXPECTED TOO MUCH FROM OTHER PEOPLE- MY PROBLEM  
I GUESS--IM FINALLY ON MY OWN. MAYBE IM MEETING TOO MANY  
MUSICIANS AND DANCERS LATELY-- THEY NEVER READ<sup>books</sup> OR LISTEN TO  
ANY NON WESTERN OR PRE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC. ~SO IT GOES.

SO IT GOES  
LOVE ARNOLD

PS I SAW <sup>Y</sup>RENESES PUNK ROCK MY GOD ITS UNBELIEVABLY AWFUL  
IT MAY BE THE WORST MUSIC IVE EVER HEARD--MUST BE INTENTIONAL--  
~~XXXX~~ THEYRE ART SCHOOL KIDS TRYING TO LOOK SO MACHO BUT ITS  
REALLY PHONY--JUST ANOTHER WAY OF DEALING WITH NYC FRUSTRATION  
I ~~XXXX~~ GUESS THO THERE IS MORE ESTABLISHED BAND CALLED TALKING  
HEADS WHORE REALLY GOOD.

LISTENING TO THE LATE BEETHOVEN QUARTETS LATELY

SINCE TYPING THE PRECEDING PART MADE TWO NEW CONTACTS:  
BO STEVENS- SINGS IN X HYKES CHOIR IS MUCH MORE DOWN TO EARTH  
THAN DAVID - IS A REALLY TOGETHER CARPENTER IS BUILDING  
RIPPLE TANKS WITH SPEAKERS AND HAS OFFERED HIS HELP.  
HAROLD ANDERSON- A BLACK JAZZ MUSICIAN CLASSICALLY TRAINED WHO  
KNOWS AS MUCH ON THE ACOUSTICS HARMONICS STUFF THAN ANYONE  
IVE MET SINCE LAMONTE AND IS WILLING TO TEACH PRIVATELY SO  
I WILL BE STARTING THAT NEXT WEEK.

# ARC

## ARTS RESOURCE CENTER

DISTRICT FOUR PUBLIC SCHOOL 7  
160 EAST 120 STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10035  
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Woody and Steina---

Enclosed find

2 half hour tapes for Tony Conrad dub

1 half hour tape for Don Cherry Dub

Also some written material:

some Chinese stuff just for the hell of it-- bell tuning and invention of equal temperament

also for Steina-- article by Hutchins of the Catgut Acoustical Society-- and an article from an acoustics book about her-- she's the one who worked on the new violin family-- see if its of any use-- I might be able to locate her if you're interested--

After last time i cant help but wonder about your obsession with this bicameral mind book, tho i havent seen it still and it is no doubt of some interest; -- woody seems bent or even desperate to make some sense out of our historical and biological condition,-- everyone's always trying the squeeze everything into some model and it seems to me that the attempt to do that is often more interesting and revealing than any " $E=Mc^2$ " we could ever agree on. At any rate, just as the dying atheistic man asks for God's pity and salvation in his last breath, maybe its all a sign of age and advancing immortality. I guess i just have a hard time accepting any notion of historical progress, (and biological just seems beside the point and in too long an evolutionary cycle); historians usually have too much investment in the civilization of their audience and method.

Otherwise my heat went off my pipes froze and burst Im still working teaching and now chinese language class and practice Chinese instrument  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 hours each nite. Its taken years for me to slow down and focus on these repetition practices-- same melody again and again, vocabulary drill, write each chinese character one hundred times, try to cook dinner maybe i should leave that for tomorrow and go out to eat

I fight it still as if it imprisons some fantasy life ive been living  
in since childhood but i guess im learning the pace whence things  
will maybe someday come. Its funny i was thinking the other day  
we were sitting in a restaurant (czech) in Montreal yrs ago with you  
two in my dirty clothes woody asked me do you know where moravia  
is? or Slovakia or Bulgaria? I didnt know the differecnce it was  
greek to me as was so much-- gradually things become more  
conscious in some way--tho i still wonder what everyone is really thinking=

pardon my pseudo-frankness...

Love  
Arnold

Woody to Steina

I owe you around \$100 or something  
from last year  
I never have any extra cash being  
always on survival level  
I came into some tape  
I figured you could make use of it

Looking for Studios - really difficult -  
may have to go to Brooklyn - Now that  
I'm finally ready to DO IT there's  
nothing at all in Manhattan - Ready  
to set up rehearsal <sup>recording</sup> studios for my  
pleasant harmonies orchestra but nowhere  
to go - have to be out of here in 3 weeks

Kitchen festival was really stupid pre-packaged  
New Music for time Magazine - IT was totally  
bad vibes - all the same people who perform  
all the time to whom I'm totally tired of  
performing under the worst possible circumstances  
A lot of people really fell for it and  
took it seriously. So here I am a young  
composer - I can't possibly identify with  
such poverty -

I have no way to copy tape of my concert for you now - but the time will come - the proper circumstances will arrive ~~since~~ I'll ~~be~~ <sup>am</sup> obsessed ~~for the time being~~

Been on late nite calls to Susan Stenger in Buffalo (the flute player who studied in Prague) It's a doomed love (she's been here a few times) - there's another guy - I always get myself into these ridiculous situations

Finally talked to Tony - ~~so~~ I was very laid back - but it seemed friendly and at least set the stage for further uncomfortable conversations. We went to Chertown late one nite -

~~Am~~

→ Why am I obsessed with these sounds and listening to these things? I don't know - I'm drawn deeper & deeper  
This spring I guess I made some kind of <sup>commitment</sup> ~~commitment~~ to really do this thing - Conceptually it's still the same thing - these frequencies - all the way back from video - and I've finally found some way to control it - very simply with some



stings to pipes - and I can rationalize it -  
I can write pages & pages I can write a book -  
but its gone beyond that - Its an INDULGEN  
act of listening - like Rock & Roll - I  
want to hear more of it - I cant look  
at images at all anymore - I havent seen  
any films in over a year - I cant look at  
paintings, etc without some effort - I hear it  
in my head all the time - Yet all that  
Buffalo stuff with you seems to give me an  
approach to this that none down here has

Anyway

Love

Arnold

## WOODY & STEINA

Spoketotechnisphere -- day i spoke to you (steina) they didnt get part yet will send up as soon as they do-- expected it then in a week or so----

any way good to hear about possinbility of Guggenheim --even with some of the awkwardness of your kithcen show (seina) and though found things unclear i definitely felt you ~~are~~ were developing something interesting-- so i ~~hope~~ hope you get the time money and encouragement to carry it through----Its time to behead the fat man' !

Any way got check for \$600 and will probably be able to save around 1200all together ive thought of various possibilities for spending the money -- have George Brown build me some kind of swithcer? or rent yours though it looks like you'll probably be using it---m i guess it depends alot on your deck which jf i had to get (buy) would take a big chunk out of my budget. I figure its best to start with the necessities --- 2 cameras deck and monitor--- then with money left over think about synch and switcher--- also on \$120/week cash salary maybe i can still save more. Anyway consider all this for our first meeting in April---

Spent last nite with Andre drunk on Brandy we listened to music here and sang with Indian instrument We both in this same situation o f trying to get settled in the big city! necessities and luxuries! BY the way how is your computer feeeeeeling!

From a book on Gypsies I am reading ,-----

"It happened that one day in the mid 18th century,, amongst a gypsy tribe camping at the gates of Darmstat , a young violinist attracted particular attention; his talent according to music lovers was so amazing that the Burgermeister took the trouble to question him. The mayor learned to his great astonishment that the virtuoso was none other than Wilhelm Friedemann Bach , eldest son of Johann Sebastian.

Once a teacher of mathematics and organist of our lady at Halle, he had left everything a few years previously to follow a tribe of gypsy mucisians. The Burgermeister of Darmstat offered him the position of choirmaster which WF Bach held for several years. But siezed by nostalgia in recollecting ~~his~~ his freedom among the gypsies, he went back to live with his chance companions and was never heard from again."

Love Arnold

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Steina, (and Woody)

Heres money i wasnt sure how to make it out i hope its ok. Ive been pretty busy these last weeks so ill try and send out some tapes to you after this coming weekend. Ive been going to this Turkish Music theory class in Philadelphia every Tues-ive gone twice so far- The teacher is Dinçer Dalkılıç- he plays ney (turkish) flute, al'oud, rebab, turkish drum, sings, is an ;instrument maker and is quite knowledgable on arabic - islamic music theory. hes a good teacher besides. The problem is that he wont teach individually (which is something im really looking for), the class is already advanced since its been going for some time, and that the modes and ~~ex~~ examples are taught with western notation rather than by ear. Though i can follow the melody line (dont forget there's no harmony here) somewhat it'll take me some time to look and hear at the ~~same~~ same time. Anyway im planning to go for ~~an~~ awhile at least until i find some sort of individual instructor in the nyc area- if there is one. So far, from listening- of the islamic musical ~~xxxxxx~~ sphere of influence i have come to ~~w~~ especially like the turkish classical music- its very slow and rich- as compared in particular to the syrian egyptian brand. There's very little music available from central asia. Im now taking private lessons once a week in uzbek- soon i will have recieved all the grammar. From there id like to get some idea of Turkish- which- oddly enuf preserves the original Turcic vowel harmony where uzbek does not due to extensive Persian ~~xx~~ influence. Another exiting path wd be to learn to read the Uzbek literary language (its closer to Uzbek than turkish-and is in fact an ~~xxx~~ archaic form of it) called Turki of Chagatay (for one of the sons of Gdenghis Khan). There was quite a golden age here while europe was in its black death. That jazz mucisian got me started on my oboe- its so loud im afraid to practice. Ineed to learn a circular breathing technique of blowing out thru puffed cheeks (acting like a windbag) while at the same time breathing in from the nose to constantly replenish the wind chamber (the mouth) so as to make a constant tone- i read that in Kurdistan\* they can go without stopping for four or five hours and gradually go ~~deaf~~ deaf ~~xxxxxx~~ from the piercing tone. Its going to take me quite a while to get my body up to it but ive had it demonstrated by this guy and it really works. The sound is really powerful-- its natural amplification for outdoor processional and ~~x~~ estatic trance music.

I really need some rhythmic instruction -- remember La Monte never cared about rhythm so im really deficient in this area- actually probably in everything. All in all this is becoming a real long term trip without an immediate sense of being able to go public.

~~xxxxxx~~

\* eastern Turkey, rather Iran, Iraq and in USSR near Armenia

I mean it'll be a few yrs before ill feel confident to do anything musically in public and surely a lifetime to do anything well. To be able to perform a traditional music or a personal music in the same ~~spirit~~ spirit is not at all the same end as being an "expert in ethnic music" as woody ~~was~~ once asked me- tho a sort of theoretical expertise is a byproduct. Anyway theres all kinds of cultural contradictions im running up against learning a dying music which i sometimes appreciate more than the ~~country~~ country its coming from, and ~~studying~~ studying it as if i cd fill its role of achievement in its ~~own~~ own cultural context and there isnt a twentieth century-- as if i could become a great turkish singer even if i wanted that in 1976- these become strange questions about a kind of cultural mish-mosh and ican only continue out of a ~~naive~~ naive interest; and eventual need for a making a personal statement ~~out~~ out of synthesizing from the mish-mosh.

Also Bulgarian-macedonian singing classes might be starting soon. And- Ive been enrolled in analysis in the C.G. Jung Institute- ive been going for about two months now-- its prett;y heavy- dreams and ~~fantasies~~ fantasies and the past--but i relate to my ~~shrink~~ shrink real well and he ~~goes~~ goes to the nitty gritty faster than has ever been my experience before--it seems to be something which ive made a decision about to go all the way thru-- my life had stabilized to a point now where i can sift thru these things in a kind of rational way- Since things have steadied and im not flipping out all the time ~~now~~ i have a little ~~more~~ more courage to pay a more analytical attention to my inner life and history- and tho i realize that not everyone has to go thru this--i feel that i would never really be able to ~~carry~~ carry creative situations thru until i deal with this- if it wasnt now it would just surface later- as it always has.

You should get the December Scientific American if you havent already theres an article on TIME.

Ive heard some real good Albanian musicians perform in nyc- totally pure and uncommercialized--

I did a painting job with Ernie Gusella- he's pretty ruff to work for. Been spending more time with Yoshi the plumber- we are very much agreed on music but his wife drives me crazy. Andrej is working hard to complete film for show-- hes using my Uher. Jean-Pierre came over one nite- i found him pleasant but kind of ascetic and austere--our personalities are quite opposed- he doesnt get my jewish humor i guess. I do ~~respect~~ respect him alot though. He wants content, content, content even ~~social~~ social conscioussness- or something- i think thats fine but he wants to use this social content with electronic images which ~~is~~ is a great mistake- i think-- they dont mix for ~~wh~~ wh christ's sake- and hes totally against perceptual work now and ~~any~~ any so aggressive statements which is my heart as you know so my opinion is that he might be making some pretty boring videotapes and writing some pretty boring articles for a while-- but he'll grow out of it. Zats it for now-- ill try and send some tapes soon---Dont let numbers go to your head

Love Arnold