



Sunday, January 19, 2025, 3:00 pm Goldman Theater,
David Brower Center 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

*Other Minds presents
Charles Amirkhania's
80th Birthday Celebration*

“No other American composer can combine esoteric thought, musical quotation, obscure instrumentation, cultural and environmental references, poetry, and the earnest love of sound and melody into works that are as listenable, stimulating, and, simply put, fun, as Charles Amirkhanian.”

–Liam Herb on KALW, 2021

Today, Other Minds celebrates the 80th birthday of Other Minds co-founder and Artistic and Executive Director Charles Amirkhanian. The afternoon’s proceedings begin with a presentation of selected recent pieces of Amirkhanian’s, including the world premiere of a new piece for ratchets, and an onstage discussion with Amirkhanian and friends of Other Minds. At intermission, join us in the Brower Center lobby for snacks and refreshments to mark this momentous occasion.

CHARLES AMIRKHANIAN (b. January 19, 1945, 4:37 pm, in Fresno, California) is the co-founder and Executive & Artistic Director of Other Minds. As a composer, he is renowned for his text-sound compositions that employ speech sounds in rhythmic patterns resembling percussion music, with influences from Ernst Toch, Gertrude Stein, Steve Reich, and Clark Coolidge. He also composes electroacoustic essays incorporating acoustic ambient sounds alongside more traditional instrumental music sources to create disjunct, trance-like dreamscapes and hörspiels. In addition to programming and directing the Other Minds Festival since 1993, Amirkhanian has led the organization in producing many additional concerts devoted to the work of the American experimental tradition, establishing a record label, a weekly radio program, and commissioning new work annually from composers around the world.

Amirkhanian served as Music Director of KPFA Radio in Berkeley (1969–1992) and Executive Director of the Djerassi Resident Artists Program (1993–1997). As a radio producer, Amirkhanian pioneered the broadcasting of minimalist music, sound poetry, radio happenings, and, with Richard Friedman, the World Ear Project, bringing continuous recordings of ambient sounds to the airwaves, beginning in 1970. Many of his hundreds of interviews with composers, performers, poets, and intermedia artists are available for listening free on the Other Minds Archives.

Program

Introductory Remarks, Blaine Todd

Other Minds Festival 20 Documentary (2015, Excerpts)

Conversation with Charles Amirkhanian. Liam Herb, Moderator.

Real Time/T.V. Time (1971, 1974)

Photography by James Petrillo, Music by Charles Amirkhanian
(*Muchrooms*, 1974)

History of Collage (1981)

Audience (1978)

Photography by Carol Law, Music by Amirkhanian

Chairs (1971, 1974)

Photography by Petrillo, Music by Amirkhanian
Seatbelt Seatbelt, Excerpt (1973)

Conversation with Carol Law & Betsy Davids.

Ratchet Attach It, for 11 Percussion & Fixed Media (2021, Excerpts)

Charles Amirkhanian

Trinity Laban Percussion Ensemble, London

Dominic Murcott, Conductor (Studio Recording)

Intermission

Noose Ratchet (2025), World Premiere

Charles Amirkhanian

Joseph Bohigian and Charles Amirkhanian, Ratchets

Bohigian and Liam Herb, Electronics

Conversation with Sarah Cahill, Paul Dresher, Tony Gnazzo, Susan Stone.

Liam Herb, Moderator.

Audible Autopsy (2021, Video of Streaming Premiere)

Charles Amirkhanian

Robert Black, String Bass, Charles Amirkhanian, Interviewer





Founded in San Francisco in 1992, Other Minds® is a leading organization for new and experimental music in all its forms, devoted to championing the most original, eccentric, and underrepresented creative voices in contemporary music. From festival concerts, film screenings, radio broadcasts, and the commissioning of new works, to producing and releasing CDs, preserving thousands of interviews and concerts and distributing them free on the Internet, Other Minds is a leading conservator of new music's history and evolution.

Other Minds

Executive & Artistic Director – Charles Amirkhonian

Associate Director – Blaine Todd

Production Director – Liam Herb

Program Director – Joseph Bohigian

Archivist – Adrienne Cardwell

Business Manager – Jenny Maxwell

Creative & Design – Dom Cooper

Co-founder – Jim Newman

Inside Photograph – Carol Law

Cover Photograph – Doug Winter – showing Amirkhonian performing *Spoilt Music*, a theater work created in collaboration with Carol Law (1979)

Our thanks to Aurora Catering Company and to Amir Abdolhosseini of Solano Florist for flower arrangements. Also to Dave Taylor for restoration onto video of 35mm slide images by Carol Law and James Petrillo.