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Weekend

the pianist-composer-band leader Sun Ra, who will perform with the composer John Cage, far right, at the Coney Island Museum-Theater.

By JON PARELES

A more experimental affair will take place at "Sideshow by the Seashore" on the Coney Island Boardwalk, when the composer John Cage, a major figure in 20th-century classical music, and the pianist-composer-band leader Sun Ra, a modern jazz catalyst, appear together Sunday.

Through his writings and compositions, not least among them his "4'33" (4 minutes 33 seconds) for a pianist sitting silently, Mr. Cage changed the way modern listeners hear, turning music and noise into a continuum rather than an opposition. Mr. Ra, who generally maintains he was born on Saturn, has an encompassing vision of jazz. He is likely to toss off anything from two-fisted stride piano to ultra-modern dissonance, not to mention a bit of cosmic prophecy now and then, such as his watchwords, "Space Is the Place." What these two will do in concert is an open question. The concert is being billed as performance art, and will have the Atlantic Ocean at its back.

"I don't know what I'm going to do yet," said Mr. Cage. As for working with Mr. Ra, he added, "It's not a collaboration, it's a meeting, and if there is a collaboration it will develop there."

"John Cage Meets Sun Ra" will take place Sunday at 3 P.M. at the Coney Island Museum-Theater, on the Boardwalk at West 12th Street, between the New York Aquarium and the Parachute Jump. Tickets are \$20 to benefit the experimental-music record label Meltdown.



The New York Times/Marianne Beronius

Out by Coney Island's Boardwalk, two major avant-garde musicians from two very different schools will perform together