



Jack Vartoogian

Hassan Hakmoun, who sings, dances and plays the sintir, is to perform with others tomorrow at Symphony Space in "A World of Percussion."

What All That Noise Will Be About

By JON PARELES

AFTER the human voice, the drum may well be the oldest instrument. It can be the most visceral of music makers, re-creating (and sometimes shifting) listeners' heartbeats; it can also be among the most delicate, shat-

tering a second into hundreds of strokes or adding a nearly subliminal bit of texture.

In many cultures, drums carry ancient, sacramental rhythms, transmitted through untold generations. And in both sacred and secular precincts, drumbeats guide and inspire dancers and improvisers, giving the music a center and a driving force at the same time.

Tomorrow night at Symphony Space, "A World of Percussion" is to bring together percussionists (and associates) from both hemispheres, who are to play both traditional music and new cross-cultural collaborations.

The lineup includes the drummer Ed Blackwell and the trumpeter Don Cherry, who both emerged from Ornette Coleman's revolutionary jazz quartet of the 1960's and have since collaborated with musicians from around the world; Orlando (Puntilla) Rios and Daniel Ponce, two Cuban percussionists who play Afro-Cuban traditional music (including music for the hourglass-shaped bata drums, which were once heard only in santeria ceremonies), and Hassan Hakmoun, a 26-year-old Moroccan musician who sings, dances and plays the sintir (a cello-like fretless lute that generates kinetic percussive riffs).

Led by Layne Redmond, Mob of Angels plays frame drums (tambourines and their kin) in music that draws on Middle Eastern traditions. It is also to appear at Symphony Space as is Adam Rudolph, who has been a member of the Mandingo Griot Society and other world-music groups, and who is to perform with Mr. Hakmoun and Mr. Cherry. The musicians will be working in various combinations, including a full-tilt closing jam session.

"For drummers, the common ground is that they all want to swing and they all want to entertain," Mr. Blackwell said. "The prime objective is to make people happy."

"A World of Percussion" is the first of a series of concerts planned by the World Music Institute at Symphony Space. It is to be followed by the similarly eclectic "Strings and Things" on June 8 and by "A



Martin Cohen/World Music Institute

ABOVE Layne Redmond, of Mob of Angels, is to play frame drums.

LEFT Daniel Ponce is to play Afro-Cuban traditional music.

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