

## AN UNUSUAL TRIO;

Some musical rarities were to be found in the presence of several out-of-towners over the weekend. On Friday, the Biltmore Hotel's Music Room presented an unusual trio of piano, drums and vocals-dance.

The Biltmore concert was sponsored by Beyond Baroque Foundation, with assistance from the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department and the hotel. Drummer Ed Blackwell, an East Coast resident, is an infrequent visitor to these parts, as is pianist Mal Waldron, who now calls Germany home. Jana Haimsohn, a New York poet, singer and dancer of extraordinary strength, was here for the first time.

The evening opened with Haimsohn reading her words from sheets set on a music stand. She delivered about 20 minutes of cathartic, original material, a self-expressive outpouring covering a gamut from hip street talk to social consciousness to the mundanities of housewifery.

When Blackwell took over at his drum set, he established an African-tinged beat, and Haimsohn became a Zulu warrior or ritualistic Mammon-worshipper, or simply an incredibly flexible, undulating body writhing back and forth, up and down, side to side—as free flowing as had been her words. The two were presently joined by an elegantly attired Waldron (three-piece suit and tie, as opposed to Blackwell's African *dashiki*), who first played some solo extrapolations. Blackwell and Haimsohn returned, with the latter now singing in "tongues."

Haimsohn's performances—vocally/poetically and in her primal dance movements—were almost narcotic. Possibly dangerous for the faint of heart!

—FRANKIE NEMKO-GRAHAM

JANA HAIMSOHN  
ED BLACKWELL  
MAL WALDRON

Los Angeles  
concert 1982

### Critic's Choice

Easily the most unusual and potentially volatile musical event of the week is Friday night's collaborative performance involving drummer Ed Blackwell, pianist Mal Waldron, and vocalist/dancer/poet Jana Haimsohn. A longtime percussionist with Ornette Coleman and later with spinoff ensemble Old and New Dreams, Blackwell is today jazz's most unorthodox drummer—and perhaps its greatest. His style consists of spreading rhythms across his set as if it were a melodic instrument. Waldron can be said to shatter the technical boundaries of the piano in the opposite manner: Under his hands it

swings back to its percussive roots. Waldron first came to attention as Billie Holiday's last piano player, and he spent the late fifties and early sixties working with Charles Mingus and later with Eric Dolphy. The unknown quantity in this trio, for me at least, is Haimsohn, who reportedly combines a cacophony of sound with movement in exciting and subtle ways. The whole thing takes place in a high class venue, the Biltmore Hotel's Music Room (515 S. Olive Ave.), sponsored by Beyond Baroque, the Foundation for Art Resources, and Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions. Should be an adventure, and could be an epiphany.—Richard Gaur

L.A. Reader

## MUSIC

Friday, January 15, 8 p.m.

Beyond Baroque,  
Foundation for Art Resources, and  
Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions  
present together in concert

**JANA HAIMSOHN**  
Vocalist/Dancer/Poet

&

**ED BLACKWELL**  
Very Special Drummer

Music Room, Biltmore Hotel, 515 S. Olive, Downtown  
This special event, produced in collaboration with F.A.R. and L.A.C.E., unites one of New York's more stunning young performance vocalists, Jana Haimsohn, with one of jazz's great veteran drummers, Ed Blackwell. Jana Haimsohn, who has performed with Don Cherry, Milford Graves and other jazz stars, combines unique vocal stylings with original dance and poetry. Ed Blackwell has played with Ornette Coleman, John Coltrane, Thelonius Monk, and many others. The November '81 issue of *Modern Drummer* magazine says of him, "Blackwell brings the tradition of jazz drumming from the roots, adds to it, and takes off into new dimensions." The concert will be held in the music room of the Downtown Biltmore hotel. Donation at the door: \$6.