

Bitstream

News and more from under the radar



Daniel Caux (right) with his wife Jacqueline and Terry Riley in Paris, circa 1970

Daniel Caux, the French producer, promoter and journalist who was one of the most active and influential European champions of American post-war avant garde music, in particular free jazz and minimalism, died on 12 July in Paris. In the early 1960s Caux was an artist and member of the French branch of George Maciunas's Fluxus movement. In the late 60s and early 70s he curated the Nuits de la Fondation Maeght concert series in the south of France and later co-ran its associated Paris based Shandar label – the concert series and the label provided early platforms for the radical new music then being produced by Albert Ayler, Sun Ra and Cecil Taylor, and La Monte Young, Terry Riley, Steve Reich, Philip Glass and Charlemagne Palestine. Caux also interviewed many of the musicians he supported in *Art Vivant* magazine: after it appeared in English for the first time in *The Wire* 227, as part of an extended article on the Maeght concerts and the Shandar label, a recording of Caux's legendary 1970 interview with Albert Ayler was included in the Revenant label's *Holy Ghost* box set of rare Ayler material. Following the demise of Shandar, Caux went on to promote major European concerts by Harry Partch, Glenn Branca, Harold Budd, Jon Hassell, Moondog and many more. He also produced recordings for Radio France's ethnographic label Ocora, and presented radio programmes on many aspects of contemporary music for France Culture.