

WHAT'S happening

The **Last Friday Artwalk** seems to be growing every month. It's spread outward from its Whiteaker neighborhood roots to include venues as far-flung as the Pizza Research Institute, where interactive pizza boxes will be on display, the paintings of **Robert D. Adams** (*Woman of the '80s* below) at Monroe Street Café and sixseventyseven, a window gallery presenting *The Contradiction of Mao*. Other stops on the walk include the Museum of Unfine Art and an array of murals and other public artworks. See Friday Calendar.



Tift Merritt's debut album, *Bramble Rose*, made her a darling of the alt country scene. Her second album, *Tambourine*, did something even better: It brought her a Grammy nomination. While *Tambourine* is packed with brand-name backing musicians (including Maria McKee and Gary Louis of the Jayhawks), the real focus is on Merritt's high-energy, soulful songwriting. "Why isn't Tift Merritt famous?" the notoriously cranky PitchforkMedia.com wondered in a review last month, describing *Tambourine* as having "all the makings of a smash." Merritt plays the WOW Hall with Trés Chicas, featuring Caitlin Cary, whose clear voice sweetened the tunes of the now-defunct Whiskeytown. See Tuesday Calendar.

The **Tchaikovsky Festival** comes to a close with a full day of events, from Ballet Fantastique's presentation of excerpts from *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty* and others to Marché's Russian-themed dinner menu. The grand finale promises a night of blockbuster performances including Tchaikovsky's "Piano Concerto No. 1" (with Stewart Goodyear, pictured right) and his rousing *1812 Overture*. Before the concert, UO professor Alan Kimball will provide context on the historical events of 1812. See Saturday Calendar.



tsunami relief benefits

Eugene comes together for two major tsunami relief benefits this weekend. Friday night, Eugene celebrities from Mayor Kitty Piercy to the UO football team will appear at the Lane County Fairgrounds for the Hand to Hand benefit. Some of the area's best restaurants, including Café Soriah, Marché, and Sweet Life, will provide a buffet dinner, and many local musicians will be performing throughout the night. All funds raised go to Direct Relief International. On Sunday, the Healing Hands of Eugene benefit combines healing arts and music in the Hult Center lobby. Massage therapists, acupuncturists, reiki masters and other healing artists will be on hand to exchange their services for donations. Mayor Kitty Piercy will appear to support this relief effort as well. All funds raised go to AMURT. See Calendar.