



Sound and Vision

TBA06 performers bring their show to Eugene.

In his popular book, *The Rise of the Creative Class*, Carnegie Mellon University professor Richard Florida noted how the most creative students and graduates were migrating from intolerant or insufficiently hip places like CMU's home of Pittsburgh to cool places like, well, here. Not long ago, three CMU art students, inspired by "Google, old comics, kinky fabrics and bent environments" (according to one of them, Cassandra C. Jones) and impressed by each other's work, began teaming up to create multimedia installations at downtown Pittsburgh galleries, featuring props, music and their diverse animation styles.

The trio was eventually booked to perform at Portland's world famous **Time Based Art** festival and Seattle's On the Boards series, and Jones says their first trip to the Northwest, which included hikes in the forest when they weren't in front of their computer screens, provided new inspiration. Since then, as Prof. Florida predicted, all three members of the ensemble/experience, which calls itself **Slow Dance Recytal**, have decamped to the West Coast, two of them to Portland.

Pittsburgh's loss is our gain, because the trio is bringing their giant gemstone-like props, Flash animation, motion graphics, found photos and music to DIVA on June 23. The elements combine to tell a story, with projected animations on a set consisting of giant glowing inflatable gems and accompanied by live clarinet, bass and pre-recorded electronic sounds (some reminiscent of early '80s synth pop), about a shape shifting character to "uncover the melodic structures within his multiplistic universe." Sounds like a trip worth taking.

SDR is part of a triple bill that also includes **Cartune Xprez**, a curated program of short experimental animations from artists throughout North America, and **Hooliganship**, another instrumental synth-pop duo that accompanies "freak-out animations" and instructional videos with retro electronic melodies for what it calls a sensory overload multimedia party. Some of it's trippy, some silly, some wild, but overall, the evening promises to be a dazzling convergence of sound and vision.

Eugene is lucky to have a local outlet for

such happenings. On June 28, DIVA hosts another in a series of avant improvisers performing up and down the West Coast. **Emily Hay** and **Marcos Fernandes** employ flute, piccolo, reed instruments from various cultures, vocalizations (whoops, yelps, squeaks and other wordless scatting) and electronics to create strange, haunting, fragmentary textures — some of them almost ambient, others veering within wailing distance of free jazz. This is an experience for adventurous listeners of all sorts and may also have some video accompaniment.

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The classical calendar tends to defer to the Oregon Bach Festival this month, but on Saturday, June 24, a group of fine local musicians will perform a diverse program of classical chamber music in a benefit for Habitat for Humanity at the Newman Center (near the UO campus and Bachfest offices, in fact). The concert features a diverse array of music for piano and strings, highlighted by Dmitri Shostakovich's tuneful Piano Quintet. Ranging from passionate to playful to pensive, it's a 20th century neoclassical masterpiece.

The well-stocked show also includes one of Mozart's finest chamber works, his Piano Quartet in G Minor, a late trio by Mendelssohn and a duet by the 20th century Swiss composer Arthur Honegger. The ensemble, which so far lacks a name, comprises fiddlers **Sophie Therrell** and **Dan Athearn**, violist **Michelle Davidson**, cellist **Jeff Defty** and **Genevieve Mason** on piano — all good musicians playing great music for a good cause. **ew**

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