

# Found Sounds

Ex-Patriot tour brings noisemasters to DIVA

In 1939, Lou Harrison and John Cage began scouring San Francisco junkyards and antique shops for brake drums and other objects that might make good percussion instruments. Their percussion ensemble concerts showed that compelling music could be made from sources other than approved orchestral or folk instruments. Today, as any Stomp! concert demonstrates, making music by banging on trash cans, bouncing rubber balls and whooshing brooms no longer seems so radical. But the tradition of turning “noise” into music remains strong. This Thursday, April 26, DIVA hosts a five-pack of experimental music performers from various locations and traditions who specialize in that sonic alchemy.

**Z'EV**, a U.K.-based sound artist, has been a pioneer in so-called industrial music since the 1970s. After studying various world music traditions at Cal Arts, he began creating his own percussion sounds out of industrial materials for a variety of small yet intrepid record labels, including a commission from John Zorn. **Moe!**, who's worked with dozens of bands and musicians, equips his trap set with everything from pipes to food pans, spatulas and other objects liberated from the Pizza Hut where he used to work. He's fun to watch, too, running around to strike or crash into various noisemakers. Performing everywhere from an abandoned subway in Austria to a Polish coal mine to a Paris museum to a Japanese zen temple, North Carolina's **Sikhara** creates trancy sound collages from sampled voices and “animalistic tribal percussion.” Eugene's own **Warning Broken Machine** employs feedback, electronic toys and other fond objects to create vast washes of sound. Portland's **Noah Mickens** also uses found objects (such as scrap metal percussion) and voice in a bewildering variety of contexts, including throat singing, neo-classical, “afro-noise-dance,” traveling freak show, theater scores and more. He's also been an important impresario in booking adventurous Portland clubs like Someday Lounge and Jasmine Tree.

As a child, **Oregon Mozart Players** music director Glen Cortese had two passions: piano and baseball. An injury took the latter from him and gave him a lot more time to practice the former. But as anyone who's heard him announcing World Series scores (particularly if his beloved Yankees are playing) between concert pieces can attest, Cortese's love for the national pastime never waned. On May 5, just in time for the new baseball season, the OMP will perform “Game Called,” Cortese's setting of a Grantland Rice poem inspired by Babe Ruth. The splendid program at the Hult's Soreng Theater also boasts Haydn's always-entertaining symphonies, Benjamin Britten's “The Sword in the Stone,” based on the King Arthur legend, and Wagner's “Siegfried Idyll,” a lovely piece that has



Taarka

for more than a century been making every husband feel guilty that he didn't write a masterpiece for his wife's birthday and hire a band to play it on the stairs as she awoke on Christmas morn. How about a dozen roses instead, honey? The Mozart Players warm up by joining the **Eugene Concert Choir** on April 28 at the Hult for Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*.

Local jazz fans should check out **Mike Denny's** new trio with B-3 boss Barney McClure and drummer Kevin Congleton at Jo Federigo's on May 4. They'll play classic organ trio standards in the tradition of Jimmy Smith to Joey DeFrancesco; look for their upcoming CD. And on April 27, Cozmic Pizza hosts a pair of local contemporary jazz fusion bands: **The Menagerie** and **Gary Rempel Jazz Syndicate**. Or if you're in a samba mood that night, head over to Luna for **Macaco Velho's** Brazilian beat. Cozmic also brings back the latest incarnation of the ever-evolving gypsy folk band **Taarka** (this time featuring mandolin, guitar, fiddle and vocals) on April 28.

Some other recommended road shows in a world music vein: The great Bay Area Afrobeat ensemble **Albino!** brings their Fela-Kuti-fueled big band grooves, costumes and dancers to the WOW Hall, with Portland's funky **March Fourth Marching Band** opening. Speaking of world music, you can hear one of its biggest crossover stars, but you'll have to go to Corvallis to do it, because that's where **Angelique Kidjo** is playing on May 9. On May 5, Luna brings back one of America's greatest singer songwriters, L.A.'s **Peter Case**. The modern troubador got his start with the power popping Plimsouls (remember “A Million Miles Away” from *Valley Girl*?) and went on to make two of the most acclaimed solo albums of the 1980s. He's continued to crank out magnificent, blues based story-songs, and has the voice and guitar chops to match his songcraft. And he's written a new memoir of his eventful life, so be prepared for a few prose passages, too.

Another musician-cum-author, **Victor Wooten**, comes to the McDonald Theatre May 2. The four-time Grammy winner, who made his name with Bela Fleck's Flecktones, has a flourishing solo career that veers between Prince-y funk, fusion jazz and hip-hoppy soul. His last album name checks mentors like Jaco, Stanley Clarke and Bootsy, and Wooten's bass mastery puts him up near that stratosphere. **EW**

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