

WHAT'S happening



East Coast hip hopper, hobnobber and hottie spotter **MIMS** has come a long way from his NYC borough upbringing to reach his status as mega-producer, thug wrangler and Bill Gates buddy (but give us a pop-star rapper who hasn't "come a long way" through the rough life and we'll show him or her the door). Perhaps best known for his club single "This Is Why I'm Hot," MIMS has finally unveiled his self-titled debut album, *Music Is My Savior* (MIMS), and is ready to roll on

with a roadshow tour that MIMS describes as just "feeling good, showing you everything I've been through and that I've built no excuses for myself." Check out MIMS at the McDonald Theatre as he tries to wash himself clean of those straight A's he scored in high school. Um, Mr. MIMS, show us why you're hot, please! See Sunday Calendar.

The Shedd Institute's Now Hear This program for November lands on our laps in one densely packed nutshell of a week and features some of the world's premiere performers of jazz, blues and roots music. Los Angelino (by way of Seattle) **Sara Gazarek** melds her pitch-perfect voice with a backing band (including stunning jazz pianist Josh Nelson) on Friday, while Oakland-based **Mike Marshall** (pictured left) & **Choro Famoso** fingerpick their way through Latin jazz and classical standards on Tuesday. Roots and blues maestro **Alejandro Escovedo** picks things up on Wednesday for a breezy slice of Americana (minus his song "Castanets," which the Austin, Texas-based Escovedo blacklisted from performances since it was found on George W. Bush's iPod playlist) while Englishman **John Mayall** and his cast of cathartic **Bluesbreakers** close out the week on Nov. 15 at the Jaqua Concert Hall. See Calendar.

Christiane Noll: Fresh from *Frankenstein*, she's headed for Eugene! Actually, the soprano – who performed to great local acclaim in the resurgent Eugene Opera's *Pirates of Penzance* last year – takes time out from her run as Dr. Frankenstein's love interest Elizabeth to sing for us. Here's hoping Frankenstein's monster doesn't come along. Her "Art of the American Diva" program, according to the curiously undetailed press release, "will highlight favorite soprano selections from opera, operetta, musical theater, art song and jazz." We like specifics, but we also like our Broadway performers, so hey – join us at one of the two concerts she's giving at the Hult. See Sunday Calendar.

