



JAY BLAKESBERG: RETNA LTD.

H O T Ticket

April 9-18

The Australian singing group, the Ten Tenors, started about a decade ago

as an informal group of opera students at Queensland Conservatorium of Music. From part-time pocket money performances they grew into a professional act that now embarks on world tours and records studio albums that include music by everyone from Queen to Puccini. The tenors will perform songs from their new album *Nostalgica* as part of the Society for the Performing Arts program at 8 tonight, Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Tickets are \$20-\$65; 713-227-4772 or www.spahouston.org

COMPILED BY CHRONICLE STAFF

Thursday, 9th CONCERT BIG AND BAD

Chicago punk pop band Plain White T's got its big break not by being loud but with the stripped-down acoustic ditty *Hey There, Delilah*. The more recent *Big Bad World* could've tried to cash in with similar quiet fare, but instead the T's got back to their power-chord-filled basics. With *Single File*, 7 tonight at Numbers, 300 Westheimer. Tickets are \$18.50; www.pegstar.net.

MOBILE EXHIBIT TALKING IT OVER

Turner Prize-winning British artist Jeremy Deller's *It Is What It Is: Conversations About Iraq* is a touring exhibition intended to "encourage public discussion of the history, present circumstances and future of Iraq through unscripted, nonpartisan conversations in cities across the country." Joined by Jonathan Harvey, a U.S. veteran of the Iraq war; and Esam Pasha, an Iraqi refugee, Deller is traveling the country in an RV along with a car destroyed in a

bombing on a Baghdad street in 2007. The presence of the car is meant to spark "open dialogue



GARY FOUNTAIN: FOR THE CHRONICLE

Thu, 9th Art

INTERVENTION: Architecture Center Houston presents Architectural Euthanasia, an exhibition showcasing the work of Dan Havel and Dean Ruck. The founders of Havel Ruck Projects, a collective known for staging "artistic interventions" at abandoned or unused sites slated for demolition or renovation, have helped Houstonians see their city afresh through works such as *Inversion (2005)*, in which they transformed a doomed bungalow into a giant funnel-like vortex. Models, drawings, photos and videos will document past projects, and a new one, *Trespass 5319*, will make its Houston premiere. Reception 6-8 tonight, exhibit through May 9, 315 Capitol, Suite 120; 713-520-0155.

and civil conversation." 10 a.m.-4 p.m. today at the University of Houston's Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts building, entrance 16 off Cullen; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday at Emancipation Park, 3018 Dowling; free lecture by Deller at 7 tonight, Glassell School of Art, 5101 Montrose; conversationsaboutiraq.org.

CONCERT IN THE PINK

Ariel Pink's Haunted Graffiti makes music as bizarre as its name. Pink is a Los Angeles indie-rock musician who seems straight out of the mid-1970s. His affinity for brainy, fussy pop with big hooks suggests he knows his way around the work of David Bowie and the Talking Heads. 9 tonight at Walter's on Washington, 4215 Washington. Tickets are \$8-\$10; www.superunison.com.

Saturday, 11th CONCERT BLOW IT UP

Two of the most innovative saxophonists in outsider jazz will perform together this weekend. Dutch improviser Ab Baars brings his trio — bassist Wilbert de Joode and drummer Martin van Duynhoven — to town. The ensemble will be joined Ken Vandermark, a



Sat, 11th Art

VAN MCFARLAND

BEHIND THE SCENES: Spend the afternoon exploring where the magic happens as the artists at Winter Street Studios open their doors to the public. Artists working in a variety of media, including painting, sculpture, watercolor, pastel, mosaics, jewelry, furniture, sculpture, pottery, fiber, metal, printmaking and photography, will be on hand to discuss their work in an informal setting. This month's featured artist is Van McFarland. 2-5 p.m. Saturday, 2101 Winter; 832-213-8943.

MacArthur Fellow who has been a cornerstone of Chicago's creative music scene for two decades. 8 p.m. Saturday, Talento Bilingue de Houston, 333 S. Jensen. Tickets are \$13; student tickets are \$10; under 18 is free; www.nameless-sound.org.

CONCERT MEDICINE

Punky pop and poppy punk have gotten a bad name as bratty pinup acts raised on Green Day have taken big hooks and dumb lyrics to the bank time and again. Ted Leo takes a headier approach. His lyrics are brighter and his music lacks the lacquer, making him a sort of 21st-century mod cut from the Paul Weller cloth, only he's from Jersey and not England. He and his Pharmacists have a cure for what ails you. His latest is *Living With the Living*. With Buxton and Blackie, noon Saturday, Rice University's Quad, 6100 Main. Free.

CONCERT THROWING HEAT

Smokin' Joe Kubeck is a Texas blues-guitar legend. He's been playing the licks that earned his nickname since he was a kid and has gigged with pretty much all of the legends of Texas blues. He's joined by longtime right-hand man Bnois King, a Louisiana player who is no slouch on guitar.

Blood Brothers is their new album, and it's full of uptempo blazers. 8 p.m. Saturday, Big Easy, 5731 Kirby. Tickets are \$5 at the door; 713-523-9999.

CONCERT SLITHERING

Wayne "the Train" Hancock chugs into town as he often does, but this time he has a new album of his turbocharged hillbilly swing to plug. It's called *Viper of Melody*, which seems to be a reference to music and marijuana, which about sums it up. 8 p.m. Saturday, Armadillo Palace, 5015 Kirby. Tickets are \$10; 713-526-9700.

Sunday, 12th CONCERT ORIGINAL

Clarence Reid is a behind-the-scenes songwriter who inked hits for the likes of KC and the Sunshine Band. His masked alter ego is Blowfly, the self-proclaimed "original dirty rapper," which is something of an understatement. The raspy voiced, foul-mouthed oddity has spent decades tailoring new profane (and funny) lyrics to pre-existing hits. He's weird and he's one of a kind. 9 p.m. Sunday, Continental Club, 3700 Main. Tickets are \$10; www.continentalclub.com.

Wednesday 15th CONCERT SHINE ON

If Shinyribs' achy, twangy voice and bizarre lyrics sound a little familiar, it's because he's a nom de roots-rock of the Gourds'



ROADRUNNER RECORDS

Thu, 16th Concert

ON THE HORSE: You'd be hard-pressed to find a more divisive band than Canadian rock act Nickelback. On one hand, the band is reviled for lunkheaded lyrics and for ripping off a style of music (grunge) that's 15 years past its prime. On the other, they sell millions and millions and millions of records. Who's right? It really doesn't matter. The release of *Dark Horse* last fall proved the band is critic-proof. 7 p.m. April 16, Toyota Center, 1510 Polk. Tickets are \$35-\$75; 866-446-8849.



JOHN SISK

Thu, 16th Concert

IN THE RING: Dan Deacon is a classically trained electronic agitator with a hardcore rocker's heart. So his music is sophisticated, unpredictable, urgent and often fascinating. He drew a bigger crowd with Spiderman of the Rings two years ago, and the excellent new Bromst should further expand the ranks. If the music sounds a little complex, well, his shows are often exciting and interactive. With *Future Islands*, *Teeth Mountain*, DJ Orion and Blackie. 8 p.m. April 16, the Orange Show, 2402 Munger. Tickets are \$10; www.orangeshow.org.

Kevin Russell. In between Gourds albums and tours, he's put together a pretty good size batch of songs that you can find for a buck apiece on his MySpace page. Or you can hear him live at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Under the Volcano, 2349 Bissonnet. Small donations accepted. 713-526-5282.

COMPETITION ROCK BOSSES

The Hard Rock Cafe's Ambassadors of Rock Battle of the Bands pits some of the city's best bands against each other for a chance at a sweet prize: a slot at the Hard Rock

Calling concert in London's Hyde Park, featuring Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, Neil Young, Dave Matthews Band and the Pretenders. Vying to rep H-town are Low Man's Joe, Dimitri's Rail, Black Queen Speaks, Versecity and others. One band from two qualifying rounds will perform at a final event (April 22) and then move on to the nationals. 9 p.m. Wednesday, Hard Rock Cafe, 502 Texas. Free. 713-227-1392.

Thursday, 16th MUSICAL BACK TO EDEN

Those who have enjoyed composer-lyricist Stephen Schwartz's scores for such musicals as *Wicked*, *Pippin* and *Godspell* may want to check out of his lesser known shows as Masquerade Theatre produces *Children of Eden* Thursday-Sunday at Hobby Center. With a book by John Caird (*Les Miserables*, *Jane Eyre*), *Children* looks at family relationships as experienced at the Very Beginning by Adam and Eve (and their sons) and Noah (and his clan). Performances are at 8 p.m. April 16-18, 2 p.m. April 19, at Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center, 800 Bagby. For tickets (\$30-\$50), call 713-315-2525.