

MUSIC



Duo do-over

This year's Outside Lands Music Festival boasts an impressive lineup, but for many patient head-bobbers, one of the biggest draws is a **reunion of breakthrough underground MCs** that's been 14 years in the making. In 1997, Lateef the Truthspeaker and Lyrics Born dubbed themselves Latyxx and released a groundbreaking self-titled album that steered clear of the bling and blood of mainstream hip-hop. It featured tracks produced by DJ Shadow, future Blackalicious beat maker Chief Xcel, and Lyrics himself, who all met at UC Davis, where their collaborations (which began with their now defunct Solesides label) led to the foundation of the massively influential Quantum Projects label. Though the Latyxx album was adored by fans and critics alike, the duo never released another together, despite promises to the contrary. Now, we can expect one hell of a show from them—and, we hope, the big announcement of a promise soon to be fulfilled. ■

**NIC BURON** AUG. 12-14, GOLDEN GATE PARK, SFOUTSIDELANDS.COM

PUBLIC ART



Catbird seats all

Rarely does the invitation to "take a seat" promise an activity at once functional, instructional, *and* aesthetic. Curated by Brazilian architect Kika Probst and famed local artist Topher Delaney, the **new outdoor exhibition "SEAT," at Fort Mason, showcases work by a stunning range of Bay Area contributors**—painters, architects, arborists, blacksmiths, sound engineers, etc.—commemorating the site's history, including its function as a Civil War-era fort and a point of embarkation during World War II. For the next year, visitors can enjoy such installations as (above, from top) Oliver DiCicco's *Bow Seat*, made of curved steel and wood; Jennifer Weiss's sleek concrete chaise longue sitting on a bed of coiled rope; and Malcolm Davis's gargantuan chairs carved from 130-year-old eucalyptus trunks—plus more than 30 others. ■

**ALLISON BARTLETT**

OPERA

She struck many chords

Painters and wordsmiths weren't the only ones enchanted by Gertrude Stein's literary experimentation. In 1926, the composer **Virgil Thomson was so enamored of Stein's novel *Tender Buttons* that he privately set some of her poems to music.** Luckily for him, she liked the pieces (and him) and agreed to collaborate on an opera, *Four Saints in Three Acts*, a masterpiece of American modernism being performed by the chamber orchestra Ensemble Parallèle this month at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. (Performance artist Kalup Linzy, below, will appear as a video counterpart to the on-stage saints, and he has asked many Hollywood big names, including Uma Thurman, Chloe Sevigny, and the Olsen twins, to join him.) Stein's repetitions and unusual rhythmic patterns freed Thomson from having to construct a literal plot and allowed him to concentrate on sound and syntax, while musically he turned to the Midwestern hymns of his youth and the choral singing he had heard in Harlem. The end result is a compelling meditation on the mesmerizing power of language, or spiritual transcendence, or perhaps both. The program also features another vocal setting of a Stein text, *O Heavenly Act*, commissioned for the event from Italian composer Luciano Chessa. ■

**ALLAN ULRICH** AUG. 18-21, NOVELLUS THEATER, YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, 701 MISSION ST. SF, 415-978-2787, YBCA.ORG



LEFT: NIC BURON; CENTER TOP AND MIDDLE: MAREN CARUSO; CENTER BOTTOM: COURTESY OF FORT MASON; CENTER: CENTER; RIGHT: MAX SNOW