

## StraightCHOICES

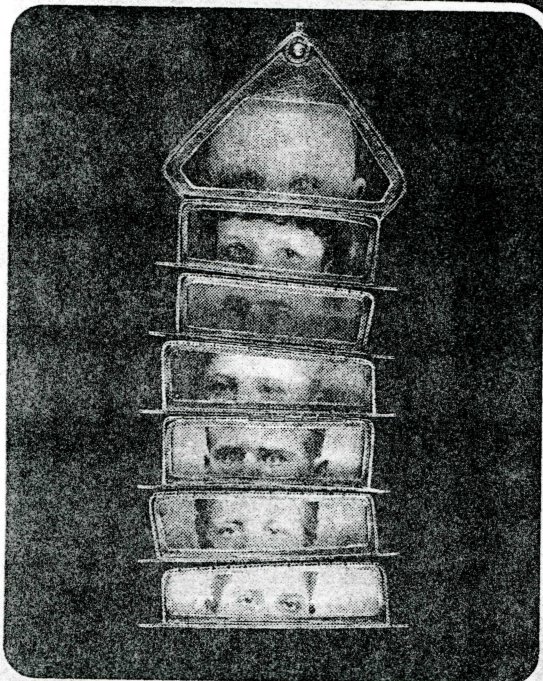


Arizona's Verdell Primeaux and Johnny Mike perform music of the Native American Church at St. Andrew's-Wesley Church on Friday (October 22).

**Get Unplugged** Sly and the Family Stone introduced the drum machine to popular recordings about 30 years ago, and since then you shouldn't believe anything you hear. We suggest you try some music without any augmentation beyond the talent the musician brings to the performance. Peppino D'Agostino demonstrates fingerstyle guitar for free at Tom Lee Music Coquitlam on Thursday (October 21). Showing that Canadians know how to pick an acoustic guitar, Don Ross showcases his CD *Passion Session* at the WISE Hall on Friday (October 22). That night two First Nations musicians from Arizona combine to perform the peyote songs and healing chants of the Native American Church in a concert by Verdell Primeaux & Johnny Mike at St. Andrew's-Wesley Church. A Rogue Folk Club presentation has Stephen Fearing, Tom Wilson, and Colin Linden playing as Blackie & the Rodeo Kings at the WISE Hall on Sunday (October 24). Getting jazzier, the NOW Orchestra has a program of new arrangements of Duke Ellington works in *Ellington Now* at the Pacific Cinematheque on Tuesday (October 26), and Nanaimo-born jazz star Diana Krall has a 34-piece orchestra behind her at the Orpheum Theatre Wednesday and Thursday (October 27 and 28). Take your choice next Thursday (October 28) between Toronto singer-songwriter Ron Sexsmith at Richard's on Richards and Maritime Celtic poppers the Barra MacNeils at the WISE Hall. Katherine, Cate, and Crowe provides a triple bill of Ontario's Katherine Wheatley and Cate Friesen, and our own Susan Crowe, singing their stuff at the WISE Hall next Friday (October 29), or that night you can go see Gordon Lightfoot sing his hits at the Orpheum.



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Kiff Slemmons will discuss her jewellery (on display until October 31) at North Vancouver's Presentation House Gallery on Saturday (October 23).

### Group Efforts

Musicians never take part in an International Jazz (& Listeners) Festival, but the literati end up with the **Vancouver International Writers (& Readers) Festival**. What they want on Granville Island until Sunday (October 24) isn't people with their noses buried in books, but folks who will listen up during discussions, readings, debates, and lectures, with some of the featured real, live writers being Evelyn Lau (oh wow), Wayson Choy (oh boy), and Susan Faludi (oh goody), plus Martin Booth, Lynn Crosbie, Wayne Johnston, Harry Mathews, Esta Spalding, and Tim Wynne-Jones. (Is there a rhyme for Wynne-Jones?) You can hear more from people who communicate for a living at **Smarten Up!**, a writers' and musicians' performance that has Norman Nawrocki, Mecca Normal, Chad Norman, Catherine Owen, Jean Smith, Bud Osborn, and David Pritchett at the Café Deux Soleils on Friday (October 22). That night you can also get it from the authors' mouths when **Patrick Friesen** and **John Barton** read from *Carrying the Shadow* and *West of Darkness*, respectively, at Black Sheep Books. Artists from throughout the eastern Arctic are represented in the sculpture exhibition **Horizons** at the Inuit Gallery until next Friday (October 29). Video, photography, electroacoustics, and improvised music all go into a collaboration by various Vancouver artists making up **October Crisis: Variations on Revolutionary Themes** at Granville Street's Sugar Refinery the next two Saturdays (October 23 and 30). Montreal choreographer Louise Bédard's latest work has a half-dozen dancers coordinating their motions in **Urbania Box** at the Firehall Arts Centre next Wednesday to Saturday (October 27 to 30).

### Singular Creations

Proving that jewellery is more than just a rock on a ring, the intricate and innovative works of Kiff Slemmons are featured in the exhibition **Return of the Corpse** at North Vancouver's Presentation House Gallery until next Sunday (October 31), and Slemmons discusses her work in a talk, **The Avant Garden**, on Saturday (October 23). Another unique production has Calgary's One Yellow Rabbit wrestling with 50 Leonard Cohen poems, then dramatizing the hallucinogenic novel *Beautiful Losers*, in **Doing Leonard Cohen** at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre until Saturday (October 23). You don't see many musicals about murderously vengeful barbers, especially ones as steaming-hot as the Morris Panych-directed production of Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, at the Stanley Theatre until next Saturday (October 30).

### Companion Pieces

Get together with someone other than yourself and do more than one thing. For instance, there is a neat progression in going to the Norman Rothstein Theatre by Friday (October 22) to see Astrid Dance do a double bill about myths of original sin and modern sexual aesthetics in *Big Diva/The Beauty Machine*, then dropping by the Charles H. Scott Gallery to see what eight artists have done for the show *Sexy Girl*, and finishing up by contributing to programs for battered women and their children when you purchase some wall beautification at the **Liberty Women's Art Show & Auction** on Saturday (October 23) at the Croatian Cultural Centre. You can get a double dose of musical virtuosity by starting with **Norbert Kraft**, the first North American classical guitarist to win the Segovia International Competition, at the Shadbolt Centre for the Performing Arts on Friday (October 22), then hearing Shanghai prodigy **Lang Lang** in concert on piano in her Canadian debut on Sunday (October 24) at the Vancouver Playhouse. For a couple of trips into the unusual, begin with two U.S. Native artists performing the peyote songs and healing chants of the Native American Church as **Phoenix Rising** features Verdell Primeaux and Johnny Mike at St. Andrew's-Wesley Church on Friday (October 22), then try new Mark Armanini compositions for the multicultural **Orchid Ensemble**, with Lan Tung on *erhu*, Mei Han on *zheng*, Mike Braverman on reeds, and Jonathan Bernard and Dido Morris on percussion, at the Norman Rothstein Theatre on Saturday (October 23).