



Hello, Visitor Register Sign-In

LAT Home | My LATimes | Print Edition | All Sections

Jobs | Cars.com | Real Estate | Foreclosure Sale | More Classifieds

# Los Angeles Times | Arts & Culture



- Restaurants
- Bars & Clubs
- Events
- Music
- Art & Museums
- Theater & Stage
- Outdoors
- Movies
- TV
- Neighborhoods

Search LA & the OC What:  ex: pizza or LACMA Where:  ex: 90069 or Hollywood

You are here: LAT Home: Entertainment > The Arts

MUSIC REVIEW

## In downtown L.A., a fresh mix of new music sounds, via San Diego

Email | Print | Text Size

The Carlsbad Music Festival previewed five new events at Zipper Hall, and at REDCAT, CalArts began its Creative Music Festival featuring UC San Diego's Anthony Davis and his group Episteme.

By Mark Swed, Times Music Critic  
September 22, 2008

That downtown Los Angeles has become new music central is one thing, but that downtown's new music scene could be so taken over by San Diego-area beach towns, as happened Friday night, really is something that would have been unimaginable a few years ago.

In the Colburn School's Zipper Hall, the Carlsbad Music Festival held a marathon concert to preview the five new music events that this week will fill the city just north of San Diego. At the same time, across the street at REDCAT, CalArts began its Creative Music Festival with a marathon that featured the UC San Diego composer and pianist Anthony Davis and his adventuresome group Episteme.

I checked out the new kids on the Carlsbad block. Founded four years ago by Matt McBane, a young composer and violinist from Carlsbad who studied at USC, the festival became a showcase for a new generation of composers, many under 30.

ADVERTISEMENT

Featuring the art of  
Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Alexandre Renoir  
October 16 - November 6  
[Click here for more info](#)

Subscribe to Section: [MyLATimes](#) [More RSS Readers](#)

ADS BY GOOGLE

### Downtown Fall Festival

I Love New York® - Find Exciting Fairs & Festivals in New York!  
[www.iloveny.com](http://www.iloveny.com)

### Festivals in LA & SoCal

Insider Info on LA Festivals Get Thrillist Free Daily Emails  
[Thrillist.com](http://Thrillist.com)

### JVC Jazz Festival

Schedule, lineups, bios & articles. Streaming audio, video and more!  
[jazz.jvc.com/](http://jazz.jvc.com/)

McBane, now approaching 30, and his festival have prospered. He's relocated to Brooklyn, where he has formed a new music indie band, Build, to play his malleable music, which doesn't distinguish between classical and rock.

Build's catchy first CD, recently released, has caught on with tastemakers at NPR and Amoeba Music and boasts a slate of warm reviews. The Zipper program began with a Build set that closely resembled the CD.

McBane's music has sweet, simple melodies that flow over an ingratiating beat. I look forward to a time when McBane adds more meat to his music, but he is a natural composer, a fresh voice and, from the evidence of his festival, a first-rate organizer with a broad range of musical interests.

Next came an appearance by Red Fish Blue Fish, a percussion ensemble at UC San Diego. The program closed

with the Calder Quartet, which has been associated with the festival from the beginning and in an astonishingly short time has become *the* American string quartet to watch.

And it offered maybe the newest of the evening's works -- a short piece, "Interface," by Tristan Perich, who will be one of the composers featured in Carlsbad.

I first encountered Perich, who specializes in primitive electronics, at a new music festival in Massachusetts two years ago where he couldn't be missed because he walked around with a big, white 1970s push-button telephone that he had converted into the world's coolest mobile phone.

Using elegant if basic electronics, Perich hooked up each of the Calder's instruments to a dinky speaker. One of the hallmarks of the Calder is the wonderful richness of its sound, here turned into beeps. But they were voluptuous beeps full of texture.

As with most young composers these days, Perich's style is hard to pinpoint. He demonstrates an accomplished sense of counterpoint, and "Interface" has a harmonic identity all its own. From one angle. This sounded like old music: from another. it felt utterly new. and the angles kept changing.

### Most Viewed

### Most Emailed

- Europeans on left and right ridicule U.S. money meltdown
- Full recovery expected for Travis Barker and Adam Goldstein after plane crash
- Alaskans angered that Palin is off-limits
- Obama outraises and outspends McCain
- California's new 8th-grade algebra rule gets some poor marks
- Palin's policies in Alaska weighted toward development
- Bailout may give housing market some breathing room
- Former Blink-182 drummer, popular DJ survive plane crash that killed 4
- Risks seen for U.S. as it freezes out Russia
- "Lakewood Terrace" is No. 1 at weekend box office

