

Eye Openers: What's hot around the bay this week

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Chamber music

New at Montalvo

In case you hadn't noticed, the Montalvo Arts Center has been rebuilding its once formidable concert programming. It recently announced a new series of piano recitals (including the likes of Lang Lang) as well as a new jazz series (including the likes of Joshua Redman). It now has announced its 2010-11 chamber music series, seven concerts in the historic Villa on the 175-acre campus in the hills of Saratoga.

The series begins Oct. 17 with the Saint Michael Trio, performing Mendelssohn's Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 66, as part of an event titled "Mendelssohn Explained." The group will talk about Mendelssohn's life and times and, of course, about his Op. 66 in particular. And the audience will join in the conversation, learning something along the way about Mendelssohn's signature compositional devices.

It sounds like an out-of-the-ordinary season opener by an unusual group: The Saint Michael's members are classically trained Silicon Valley professionals (i.e., pianist Russell Hancock is president and CEO of Joint Venture-Silicon Valley Network).

Other ensembles in the series include the San Francisco-based Cypress String Quartet and three up-and-coming young ensembles from around the country: the Parker Quartet, the Afiara String Quartet and the Enso String Quartet. Subscriptions for three or more concerts are now available: \$20 per concert. Single tickets also are

available: \$30 general admission; \$25 members; \$10 students with ID. Order at www.ticketmaster.com; for more information, visit www.montalvoarts.org.

— Richard Scheinin, Mercury News