



Weekend Top 10: Keb' Mo' brings the blues

By Jim Harrington
Oakland Tribune

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1, Keb' Mo', Solomon Burke. I always love it when the San Francisco Jazz Festival travels across the Bay Bridge. So I'd probably pick this show no matter who was playing. The fact that it's a double-bill of Keb' Mo' (pictured) and Solomon Burke, two tremendous talents, is an added bonus. Mo' is one of the most exciting bluesmen in the game, and Burke is a true soul/R&B music legend. This should be a fine finale for the 27th annual event.

Details: 8 p.m. Saturday; Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland; \$20-\$65; 866-920-5299, www.sfjazz.org.

2, San Francisco World Music Festival. Now in its 10th year, the festival is set to present the ambitious "International Youth

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Music Initiative," which brings together young musicians and master artists from several different cultures. The concert will include musicians from China, India and Taiwan as well as from the good ol' USA.

Details: 7 p.m. Sunday; Jewish Community Center of

San Francisco, 3200 California St.; \$12-\$15; 415-292-1233, www.sfworldmusicfestival.org.

3, Dark River. The Oakland Opera Theater presents the world premiere of Mary D. Watkins' opera, which is based on the life of Civil Rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer. The production is a collaborative effort with California State University, East Bay.

Details: 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday; Oakland Metro Operahouse, 630 3rd St.; \$28; 510-763-1146, www.oaklandmetro.org.

4, "I Love a Piano." Who doesn't love Irving Berlin? (OK, maybe that guy over there, the one wearing the Adam Lambert T-shirt, isn't so fond of him.) If you dig Berlin, then you'll want to check out this new music-and-dance revue, which features 64 (!) of Berlin's best. I'm talking about such classics as "Puttin' on the Ritz," "There's No Business Like Show Business" and, of course, "White Christmas."

Details: 8 tonight and Saturday; Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 3200 California St.; \$50-\$55; 415-282-1233, www.jccsf.org/arts.

5, The Swell Season. When it comes to the category of "Best Original Song," Oscar voters usually reward the wrong one. They got it right, however, back in 2008 when they gave the trophy to the Swell Season's gorgeous "Falling Slowly," from the film "Once." The Swell Season returns to town in support of its recently released third album, "Strict Joy."

Details: 8 tonight; Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland; \$35-\$40; 510-465-6400, www.paramounttheatre.com.

6, "The Wizard of Oz." Any play with a small dog in it is OK in my book. Throw in a guy dressed in a lion's suit and a scarecrow and I'm really hooked. While some people stand in line to buy tickets to see

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"Wicked," I prefer to stick with the original story of Dorothy and Toto, who definitely aren't in Kansas anymore. This production is presented by the Berkeley Playhouse, through Dec. 6.

Details: 2 and 7 p.m. Saturdays, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sundays; Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley; \$19-\$28; 510-665-5565, www.juliamorgan.org .

7, "Tribute to Woody Guthrie." Berkeley's own Woodstock legend, Country Joe McDonald, who gave the world a spelling lesson it'll never forget in "The Fish Cheer," performs his long-running "Tribute to Woody Guthrie." I like Country Joe and I like Woody — so this is an easy one to recommend. It's a benefit for the California Coalition for Women Prisoners.

Details: 7:30 p.m. Saturday; Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St.; \$25; www.brownpapertickets.com .

8, Disco Biscuits. Is Phish in town this weekend? How about one of the Grateful Dead dudes? Negative on both counts? Oh well, I guess local jam-band fans will have to get their fix by going to see the Disco Biscuits. That's not a bad consolation prize; these guys rock in concert.

Details: 9 tonight and Saturday; Fillmore, 1805 Geary Blvd., S.F.; \$25; 877-598-6659, www.livenation.com .

9, San Francisco Hip Hop DanceFest. The 11th annual festival will feature 22 companies, some local (from Oakland, San Jose and S.F.) and others from as far away as South Korea, Norway and Ireland. Of note will be performances by South Korea's Last For One, which I'm told is widely considered one of the world's best b-boy teams. (See Web site for which crews are performing on each program.)

Details: 8 tonight and Saturday, 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday; Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, 3301 Lyon St., S.F.; \$35 per show; 415-392-4400, www.sfhiphoptancefest.com .

10, Peter, Bjorn and John. What's up with all the good pop music coming from Sweden these days? The country hasn't produced this many cool tunes since ABBA ruled the air waves. The best of the new lot is Peter, Bjorn and John, the hip trio known for the unbearably catchy "Young Folks."

Details: 8 tonight; Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St., S.F.; \$23; 415-885-0750, www.gamh.com .

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