

## CALENDAR CLUBS Jazz-EXHIBITIONS

Just don't say "pianist envy" to this tinkling shrink.



# JAZZ PICK OF THE WEEK

## DENNY ZEITLIN

While pianist Denny Zeitlin's other vocation — as a full-time psychiatrist in the Bay Area since starting his residency there in 1964 — may have limited his output over the past 40 years, it certainly hasn't hampered his musical skills. If anything, his medical career has probably made him a better player, as Zeitlin, who sees the two as inseparable, would be the first to tell you. Think about it: Those same qualities that typify a good psychiatrist — deep empathy, the capacity to simultaneously probe and listen, to unearth overlooked connections, to synthesize and respond to disparate information without losing sight of the big picture — are among the most prized in jazz. And while I can't speak for his other occupation, as a musician Zeitlin's got every one, along with technique to burn. You'll find them all on his most recent release, 2001's *New River*, a duet disc with the remarkable mandolinist David Grisman. Mixing bluegrass with strains of swing, modal and Latin jazz, the record serves as a fine showcase of exactly what Zeitlin can bring to the table: not just his open and thoughtful imagination, his encyclopedic knowledge of styles, his rigorous attention to structure and his lovely Bill Evans-like lyricism, but the distinct ability to spontaneously connect with his fellow musicians on the deepest of levels. Which is really the point of this jazz thing, yes? His trio this week could scarcely be better: with the invaluable bassist Buster Williams and inventive drummer Matt Wilson. At the Jazz Bakery, Tues.-Sun., Dec. 10-15, 8 & 9:30 p.m. (310) 271-9039.

—Brandt Reiter

We also recommend: *Blay Ambolley* at the Howling Monk, Fri.; *Scott Barnhart* at Charlie O's, Fri.-Sat.; *James Carney* at Rocco, Fri.-Sat.; *Jimmy Scott* at the Jazz Bakery, Fri.-Sun.; *James Moody* at Clancy's, Sat.; *Pete Jolly* at Spazio, Sat.; *Don Menza* at Charlie O's, Tues.; *Monty Alexander* at Catalina, Tues.-Thurs.; *Mike Melvoin* at Spazio, Thurs.