

Straight choices

You don't want to be shaking, shucking, or hurling yourself from stages when little Cupid is around with his bow, or you could get one of those arrows in the eye. It's best to sit back, hold hands, and listen to music while gazing fondly at the person you'd most like to get unhygienic with. The **Stellar Saxophone Quartet** is all the sax you could ever desire, with Coat Cooke, François Houle, Daniel Kane, and Bob Walker providing sparks for a four-way jazz plug-in at the Pitt Gallery on Friday (February 12), which is also the night that perennial favourite folk-rocker **Roy Forbes** is at the Matsqui Hall in Mission. If you are cynical enough to believe "Can love last forever?" and "How do you keep a moron in suspense?" are one and the same question, then **No Fun in Love** at the Tom Lee Music Hall is the show for you on Saturday (February 13) as quirky Surrey trio No Fun thumbs its collective nose at romance. The other option that night would be the **Kokoro Dance/Kane-Taylor Explosion** at the Pitt Gallery, a

collaboration that caused quite a buzz last year with its fusion of improvisational dance and free-form jazz. For the big day itself, there are two excellent choices: clarinet and klezmer by a master of Argentine popular folk music, **Giora Feidman**, in town to play at the Temple Sholom; or the laid-back, utterly refreshing rock of **Coal**, in a double bill with that unheralded local tunesmith, **Herald Nix**, at the Anza Club. With Eros and his dangerous toy finished for another year, we can chance some dancing on Tuesday (February 16). At the Town Pump that night, Seattle's pioneer sludge-rockers the **Melvins** attempt a harmonic resonance capable of setting off small earthquakes in unstable areas, **Information Society** manufactures some techno-pop at Richard's on Richards, and traditional Celtic band **Altan** begins a two-night stand at the WISE



The tenor of the evening will be alto-gether unusual when the Stellar Saxophone Quartet comes to the Pitt Gallery. Larry Svirchev photo.

Club for reel people. While Altan is skirling through its second show on Wednesday (February 17), **Night of 1,000 Guitars** will have a dozen or more of the city's best strummers and pickers presenting a series of solos and duets at the Cruel Elephant. The American heartland is well-represented in shows coming up late in the week. **Uncle Tupelo** brings its Illinois country thrash to the Elephant on Thursday (February 18), along with a can't-miss opening act—Kansas singer/songwriter **Freedy Johnston**. At the Anza Club on Friday (February 19), Virginia's **Bluegrass Cardinals** will lead the stomping and clapping. And don't forget about the upcoming solo jazz piano show by **Marcus Roberts** on Saturday (February 20) at St. Andrew's Wesley Church. All in all, a lovely week for all kinds of music—and not a single show in a cattle barn.