

Straight choices

Vancouver becomes Music City for four days as **Music West** gathers brains and talents from across Canada and around the world to run workshops on marketing, media, managers, and making music. That would be at the **Music West Conference** at the Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre this Thursday to Sunday (May 11 to 14), with various seminar series focusing on independent recording, composition, computer networking, media relations, and dealing with industry pooh-bahs.

MusicShow '95 at the Robson Square Conference Centre Friday to Sunday (May 12 to 14) has free music and vocal lessons, interactive displays, demonstrations, children's entertainers, and master musician clinics. But what you want to know is which shows in the sprawling **Music West Festival** stand out from the rest. We will therefore keep you in suspense while we remind you that the Coastal Jazz and Blues Society also has an excellent concert on Friday (May 12) in a double bill of the **Saul Berson Quartet** and the **George McPetridge Trio**, giving you the alto saxophone and piano you've been yearning

for at Studio 16. Festivalgoers have to pick that night between former firehose and Minutemen vocalist-bassist **Mike Watt**, promoting his alternative star-studded *Ball-Hog or Tugboat?* release at the Commodore; legendary Velvet Underground member **John Cale**, with **B.J. Cole** and the **Soldier String Quartet**, at the Vogue Theatre; or leaving the wristband holders behind and sailing on the *HMS Abitibi* from Tradewinds Marina for the Zulu Revue, a showcase of Zulu recording artists **Daytona**, **Perfume Tree**, and **knock down ginger**. All baseball caps will be worn backwards at the **Slam City Jam** at the Plaza of Nations on Saturday and Sunday afternoons (May 13 and 14), when demonstrations by the world's top skateboarders will alternate with appropriate music from hip-hop to hardcore. Juno Award-winner **Jann Arden** is at the Vogue to demonstrate songwriting and vocal ability in equal amounts on Saturday (May 13), and you can bet her audience won't be torn by the concurrent availability of the trash-glam cabaret **A Night at the**



Juno-winning singer-songwriter Jann Arden plays a Vogue Theatre show on Saturday (May 13) as part of the Music West Festival.

Prom, at the Penthouse, where Salon Betty & the Big Hair Sex Circus, Econoline Crush, the Muscle Bitches, and Tchkung! preside over the party. But you might want to take a break from the big show and slip into Studio 16 for a rare soprano-sax treat from the **Bruce Freedman Quartet** and some original trumpet compositions from the **Brad Turner Quartet**, or even try some uplifting lesbian love songs at the Unitarian Church, where **Cris Williamson** and **Tret Fure** share their collaborations. Session drum ace **Terry Bozzio**, once of Missing Persons, is on a bill with onetime Yes-man **Steve Howe** at the Vogue on Sunday (May 14), with the rougher trade heading for the Pump to see **D.O.A.** top a rocking lineup that leads off with **Rogue Pope**, **Frightwig**, and **Junkhouse**. It was pretty funny when Tortelvis put together a visual parody of the King with reggae versions of the music of Led Zeppelin. You can check out whether **Dread Zeppelin** is still a laugh at the Town Pump next Friday (May 19).