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THIS WEEK

Shervin Lainez

Best bets from Datebook's arts and entertainment critics and contributors

CLASSICAL

Two dynamic chamber groups join forces

Two innovative ensembles in the world of contemporary chamber music, Imani Winds (above) and the Catalyst Quartet, are about to join forces in San Jose for a kind of chamber music summit. The heart of the program, which is titled "(Im)migration: Music of Change," will be a new work by composer Jessie Montgomery, who usually serves as the Catalyst's first violinist.

Unfortunately, Montgomery's compositional plate has apparently become so full that she has had to withdraw from performance for a bit (violinist Doori Na is expected to step in) but the performance of her new work, "Sergeant McCauley," is scheduled to go on as planned.

The piece is inspired by the Great Migration and uses spirituals and work songs to depict the travels of Montgomery's great-grandfather.

Also on the program is music by Gabriela Lena Frank, Roberto Sierra and Mongo Santamaria.

— Joshua Kosman

Imani Winds and Catalyst Quartet: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22. $30-$45. Hammer Theatre Center, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose. 408-924-8501. hammertheatre.com; 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23. $25-$55. Weill Concert Hall, Green Music Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park. 866-955-6040. gmc.sonoma.edu