

## PILES OF BOXES FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Stumped about what to put under the tree already? Today's cover story could help even the most flustered holiday shopper come up with some excellent gift-giving ideas — in the form of boxed sets of DVDs and CDs. Check out the lists (twice, maybe?), by Walter Addiego, Joel Selvin and Joshua Kosman, that begin on Page 16.

In Scenes, David Rubien gets the lowdown on the first International Body Music Festival, in which human bodies are the instruments of sound (Page 20); and Robert Hurwitt runs down the myriad holiday stage productions coming up around the bay (Page 22).

It's never too early to think about who might be nominated for an Oscar. With the announcement less than two months away, Ruthe Stein puts her predictions — for best director, picture, actor, actress, supporting actor and supporting actress — in writing on Page 24. Also in Screens: G. Allen Johnson talks with Eileen Walsh about the popular new Irish indie "Eden," which tells the story of a troubled 10-year marriage (Page 26), and Reyhan Harmanci checks out another independent film, "Lake City," for which a couple of lucky first-time directors were able to snag Sissy Spacek as the lead (Page 28).

With new albums by "American Idol" Season 7 winner David Cook and runner-up David Archuleta now in stores, Aidin Vaziri decided to recap the success — or lack thereof — of previous winners and runners-up. See his analysis in Sounds, on Page 40. Vaziri also treads on dangerous ground by asking Oasis' Noel Gallagher how he feels about music criticism (Pop Quiz, Page 44). And, in his Radio Waves column, Ben Fong-Torres goes straight to the source to find out how KGO DJ Karel got fired for his on-air rant about Joe the Plumber (Page 43).

Already wondering what to do with all those Thanksgiving leftovers? In Destinations, Matt Villano scouts out some beautiful places for a post-holiday picnic in the Wine Country (Page 55).

Next week: The private side of opera composer Jake Heggie.

Sue Adolphson, Sunday Datebook Editor

