

Big Ears Recommendations

Thursday, March 22

- **NELS CLINE “LOVERS” with the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra + special guests - Tennessee Theatre - 7:30 p.m.** This will be a beautiful and memorable concert. Nels may be best known for his work with Wilco, but his career as one of the world’s most talented and imaginative guitarists spans decades – over two of them before he joined Wilco. “Lovers” has been one of my favorite records of the past few years – ostensibly an update of the idea of romantic “mood” music – and was Nels’ dream project for a quarter of a century before it was realized. You’ll hear songs by Rodgers & Hart and Henry Mancini alongside Sonic Youth and Ambitious Lovers, along with a few originals, all seamlessly flowing into a wonderful, rich program. The Knoxville Jazz Orchestra will be joined by a couple of Knoxville Symphony Orchestra members, along with several guest soloists, including the extraordinary violinist Jenny Scheinman and Cline himself...along with a rumored surprise guest.... It’s only the third time this has been presented in concert in the USA. This (is) an [excellent Fresh Air interview](#) with Nels from a few months back.
- **DAVID HIDALGO & MARC RIBOT - Tennessee Theatre - 10:15 p.m.** Discerning music fans have long regarded Los Lobos as one of our greatest rock ‘n roll bands, and David Hidalgo is their guitarist and lead singer. Guitarist Marc Ribot is one of the most highly regarded musicians in the world – one whose playing has not only graced, but shaped the sound of artists like Tom Waits, Alison Krauss & Robert Plant, John Zorn, and countless others. Together, Hidalgo and Ribot call their collaboration “Border Music” – and it encompasses songs from the likes of Merle Haggard, Hank Williams, and Dolly Parton along with Tex-Mex classics and of course highlights from the Los Lobos songbook. [Here’s a decent audience video](#) of David and Marc playing Merle Haggard’s “The Running Kind.”
- **ANNA THORVALDSDOTTIR: In the Light of Air Performed by ICE (International Contemporary Ensemble) - The Mill & Mine - 6:30 p.m.** Icelandic composer Anna Thorvaldsdottir is one of the most acclaimed young composers in the world. She has received numerous awards and was selected in 2015 as the New York Philharmonic’s Emerging Composer, a residency with the orchestra. Her work is one of richly textured and atmospheric, much of it evoking the austere, sometimes unsettling beauty of her homeland. You will not find hummable melodies in her music but you will be completely enveloped in a sonic environment unlike any other. “In the Light of Air,” which was premiered by ICE in 2014 at the Reykjavik Arts Festival is also rich in visual atmosphere. It’s NYC debut was “in the round” at the Park Avenue Armory in NYC, with a stunning theatrical lighting design that enhances the experience. The piece will also be performed in the round at the Mill & Mine, opening this year’s festival. (Capps provided [this link](#) to a live performance in Reykjavik.)