

# A 'scrapophony' of sound at 20th 'Birthday Concert'

**Bruce Barton**  
PENINSULA TIMES TRIBUNE

➤ Herb Moore of East Palo Alto is a revivalist of sorts — but he's not stopping at the 1960s or '70s. He's going back hundreds of years, before conventional instruments, to create sounds he dubs "scrapophony."

For the past 25 years, Moore has taken "scraps" — circular saw blades, pipes, wood blocks and other throwaways — to create his music. The results have been inventive, humorous and nothing short of fascinating.

"My philosophy is that anything can be musical," he said. "If you think about what composers do — they put sounds together. What I do is a throwback to a more primitive sense of music ... It's the essence of composing."

Moore mixes his "found object" sounds with up-to-date guitars, electronic keyboards and drums in his 20th annual "Birthday Con-

## DETAILS

### "THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY HERB MOORE BIRTHDAY CONCERT"

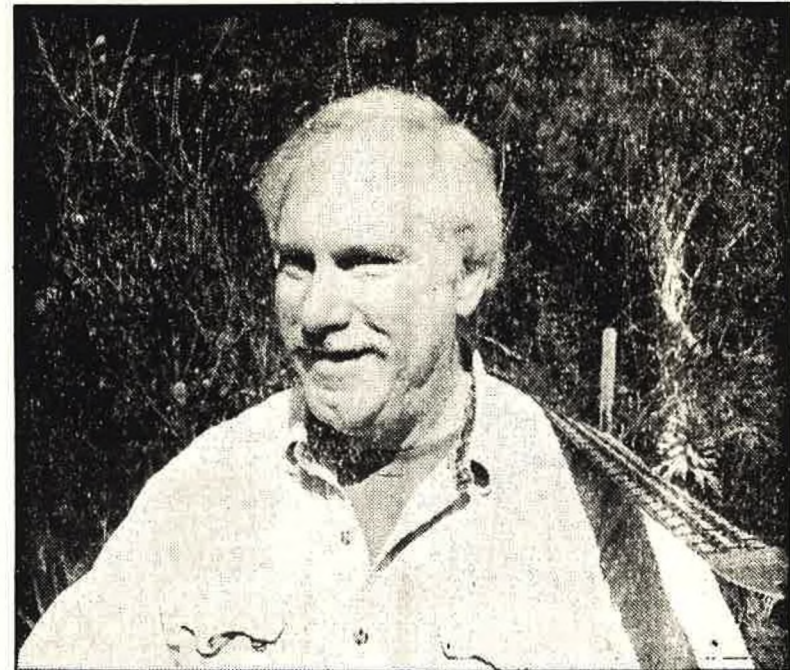
**When and where**  
8 p.m. Saturday; Palo Alto Women's Club, 475 Homer St., Palo Alto

**Tickets**  
\$6; (415) 328-0175

cert" Saturday at Palo Alto Women's Club. The concert combines the primitive with the high-tech, with some environmental themes thrown in for good measure.

A participant in the recent celebration of artist John Cage at Stanford University, Moore, 48, has been heavily influenced by Cage's experimentation and the simple fact that he "couldn't afford some of the exotic instruments out there."

Some of Moore's intriguing sounds come from humorous sources. He takes a bucket of water and dips a metal pipe while



**"Anything can be musical,"** says scrapophonist Herb Moore of East Palo Alto. The eclectic musician performs his annual "Birthday Concert" Saturday.

striking it. The tone drops as the pipe goes deeper into the water. He employs toilet bowl floats as a pair of maracas.

A restless musical explorer, Moore has recorded something called "H2Overture, A Suite for the Cycles of Water." The suite was the culmination of five years of listening and recording the sounds of rain and running streams.

Moore said his scrapophony creates "non-threatening situations for people who are not musicians." Most of these people, he said, are more comfortable playing around with a saw blade or pipe than a guitar or piano.

The "Birthday Concert" Saturday will vary wildly. Moore will feature some "California folk

songs" about organic gardening, including his own composition, "The Compost Song." Several scrapophony pieces will be performed, including a "Happy Birthday" audience sing-along, complete with Moore providing the lyrics on cue cards. Another piece, "The Dragon's Dream," has Moore reading his story amid a backdrop of synthesizer sounds and scrapophony.

"It will definitely be eclectic," Moore laughed.

Moore will be joined by several guest musicians/friends at Saturday's concert: vocalist/accordion player Carolyn Cirimeli; Ed Cirimeli on mandolin; composer/conductor Paul Fink; percussionist Ramon Zamora; and bassist Leonard Hanitchak.

<small>* NO PASSES OR DISCOUNTS 5 DAY ADVANCE TICKETS AT WALK-INS</small>		<b>\$375</b>	<small>WEEKDAY MATINEE SHOWS STARTING BEFORE 5:45PM SAT/SUN/HOLIDAY SHOWS STARTING BEFORE 2:00PM</small>	
<b>SAN MATEO / REDWOOD CITY</b>		<b>CENTURY PARK 12</b>	<b>WHIPPLE AV. &amp; BAYSHORE BLVD. / 365-9000</b>	
<b>MEMOIRS OF AN INVISIBLE MAN (PG-13)</b> 1:45-3:45-5:45-7:45-9:55	<b>MISSISSIPPI MASALA (R)</b> 12:35-3:05-5:30-8:05-10:25			
<b>GATE II (R)</b> 1:20-3:20-5:20-7:20-9:20	<b>RADIO FLYER (PG13)</b> 12:20-2:45-5:15-10:15 / Sneak At 8:00			
<b>★ STOP! OR MY MOM WILL SHOOT (PG13)</b> 12:10-2:10-4:10-6:10-8:10-10:10	<b>★ WAYNE'S WORLD (PG13)</b> On 2 Screens: 12:00-2:00-4:00 5:10-6:00-7:15-8:00-9:15-10:00			
<b>SHINING THROUGH (R)</b> 12:15-3:10-5:55-8:45	<b>BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (G)</b> 12:00-2:00-4:00-6:00			
<b>JFK (R)</b> 1:10-8:15	<b>MEDICINE MAN (PG13)</b> 12:25-2:45-5:05-7:35-10:00			
<b>FRIED GREEN TOMATOES (PG13)</b> 1:30-4:15-7:00-9:45	<b>PRINCE OF TIDES (R)</b> 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:20			