

Ben Quinones  
culture

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Partch in performance: The Depression comes to Disney Hall

### PICK OF THE WEEK

## HARRY PARTCH'S *BITTER MUSIC*

*Bitter Music* is based upon American iconoclast composer Harry Partch's 1935-36 journal of eight months spent on the road as a hobo. Partch notated the music of the spoken words he heard in transient camps and flophouses, and sketched pencil illustrations of the scenes he experienced. "I heard music in the voices all about me," he wrote, "and tried to notate it . . . to enhance the mood and drama of such little things as a quarrel in a potato patch. The nuance of inflection and thought of the lowest of our social order was a new experience in tone, and I found myself at its fountainhead — a fountainhead of pure musical Americana." An adept Partch interpreter, guitarist John Schneider and his chamber group Just Strings give a multimedia presentation of *Bitter Music*, the first time Partch's music, words, drawings and photographs are brought together in a single presentation. REDCAT at Disney Hall, Second & Hope sts., dwntwn.; Fri., June 11, 8:30 p.m. (213) 237-2800, or [www.redcatweb.org](http://www.redcatweb.org).

—John Payne

# CLASSICAL & <sup>new</sup> MUSIC

BURNING BLAD  
Reagan Without

