

# The Austin Chronicle

September 25, 1998

*“...exhilarating ... unexpected ... bewitching ... lively , playful ... sweet and tasty.”*

## RECOMMENDED EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF SEP 25-OCT 1

### **Corky Siegel**

*Bates Recital Hall, 8pm*

In the hall of fame that houses two great tastes that go great together, you can now add classical music and the blues – at least the way Corky Siegel combines them. This veteran bluesman and master of the harmonica has a bewitching way of blending the torrid wail of the blues harp with the orderly song of classical strings, drawing unexpected sounds from each and the best from both. For 30 years, since his exhilarating experience “jamming” with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Siegel has been experimenting with classical-blues fusion. His two CDs, 1994’s *Corky Siegel’s Chamber Blues* and *Complementary Colors*, on sale this week, are themselves exhilarating, and now here he is live with his “band,” the West End Quartet, and percussionist Frank Donaldson. Lively, playful, and, like those chocolate-peanut butter cups, sweet and tasty. 471-1444.

– Robert Faires

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***“...Utterly winning musical program.”***

## CLASSICAL MUSIC PICK OF THE WEEK

### **CORKY SIEGEL'S CHAMBER BLUES**

Classical music, elegant and precise, marries the loose and passionate blues in this utterly winning musical program. Corky Siegel is a Chicago bluesman and harmonica master who was invited by conductor Seiji Ozawa to play with the Chicago Symphony back in 1968. The experience proved so exhilarating that Siegel sought out more opportunities to fuse the blues and classical, and has been mixing them regularly ever since. His recent work with a string quartet – which may be heard on the 1994 CD *Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues* and the CD *Complementary Colors*, which goes on sale this week – are exceedingly lively and buoyant. There's something of the imp in Siegel; he sounds like a kid at play in some stolid concert hall. Joining him on this tour are the West End Quartet and percussionist Frank Donaldson, who match not only Siegel's virtuosity but his playfulness. **ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY! Fri, Sep 25, 8pm, at Bates Recital Hall, 25th & E. Campus Dr., UT campus. \$24. 471-1444.**