

# Weekend

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## CLASSICAL MUSIC AND DANCE GUIDE

### Opera

**"CELESTIAL EXCURSIONS."** The idiosyncratic composer Robert Ashley has said that "with the exception of a few condescending and silly movies, old people are one of the few minority groups basically unrecognized in the arts." In "Celestial Excursions" he seeks to remedy that by focusing on the things old people say, either to one another or to themselves. His libretto for this electronic opera touches on reminiscence, nightmare, clichéd expressions, regret and old radio favorites. Joan Jonas, a performance artist, is to perform the work with the singers Sam Ashley, Thomas Buckner, Jacqueline Humbert, Joan La Barbara and the composer, to the accompaniment of an electronic soundtrack recorded by Mr. Ashley and Tom Hamilton, mixed live by Mr. Hamilton. Tonight and tomorrow at 8, the Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street, Chelsea, (212) 255-5793. Tickets: \$25, or \$20 in advance (Kozinn).