

Editor
East Bay Express
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To the editor;

I was deeply troubled by Brady Kahn's shallow and uninformed piece on composer John Adams. Adams is unquestionably one of the most important Bay Area composers, and whatever the level of one's interest in his music, he has undeniably created a significant body of music, worked hard, paid his dues, and deserves to be written about in a more considered and intelligent way.

I question the wisdom of writing from a standpoint of professed ignorance, as Kahn seems to do (notwithstanding the tremendous veracity given to her by having a friend who's a cellist). Composer Herbert Brun has called this kind of approach that of the "self-appointed moron," and I wonder if the same pseudo-anti-elitist justification for having someone who knows nothing about the topic would be permitted by the *Express* in other areas than music. How would *Express* readers feel if writers who knew nothing about their topics wrote lengthy articles on Berkeley politics ("Well, there were a lot of people at the meeting, dressed all different ways, and they spoke really loud, but I got kind of bored because I didn't know what they were talking about") or Bay Area sports ("A lot of guys, some wearing green hats, some blue, stood, rather evenly spaced, for long periods of time on the field. And there was also something with a ball and stick").

The *Express* has, in my opinion, some of the finest and most inciteful writers on music in the *country* (like Gina Arnold, Derk Richardson, and Sarah Cahill) and it seems a real travesty and insult to the artistic intelligence of the Bay Area to turn over such an important feature to someone with no real interest, insight, or knowledge in the area, as well as a kind of childish snitty tone which neither the subject of nor the audience for this article deserve.

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