



ELECTRIC ACCOMPANIMENT: Dr. Ajay Kapur with some of KarmetiK's musical machinery.

EAR CANDY

Robots That Rock

Has the music scene's obsession with Auto-Tune finally given way to a full-blown android swoon? The overheating buzz around upstart robot orchestra **KarmetiK** (karmetik.com), the brainchild of CalArts' director of music technology **Dr. Ajay Kapur**, suggests so. Hot off a capacity-crowd gig at REDCAT earlier this year, the retinue of machine and human musicians will be performing original compositions inspired by traditional Indian and Indonesian tunes on May 13 at the Valencia campus' Modular Theater. Kapur, technical director Michael Darling and students from Kapur's Robotic Design class, who also play in the orchestra and design the sets, find materials at local junkyards: everything from old typewriters to scrap metal and acrylic for the machines' bodies. Then they program their cyber-Frankensteins—there's GanaPatiBot on percussion, "Tammy" on marimba and bells, and MahaDeviBot, a 12-armed multitasker handling drums, cymbals, wood blocks and gongs. All of which harmonize with the humans, who are strumming, say, sitars modified with sensors and USB tracks connected to laptops. "It's very kinetic," says Kapur. —*Marysol Valle*

NUMBER CRUNCH

11

Winery tasting rooms currently pouring along downtown Santa Barbara's so-called **Urban Wine Trail** (urbanwinetrailsb.com), including recently opened addition Municipal.



FAB FIVE

Beige Rage! From a basket-woven outdoor throne to a curvy chaise chiseled from stone, neutral-colored alfresco furniture gets sexy this summer. —*Wendy Wong*

1. Patricia Urquiola's Crinoline armchairs, \$4,889, at Diva Group, 8801 Beverly Blvd., 310.278.3181.
2. Stone Forest's Chaise, starts at \$7,500, at Stone Forest, stoneforest.com or 888.682.2987.
3. Studio L.T.O.'s SWA armchair, \$1,303, at Fornasari, fornasari.it.
4. Atelier Remy & Veenhuizen's Reef Bench, \$20,000, at Industry Gallery, industrygallerydc.com or 202.399.1730.
5. Ron Arad's Ripple Chair, starts at \$471, at GGM Italy, 8783 Beverly Blvd., 310.271.9011.