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SEPTEMBER 2015 \$3.95

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ART & CULTURE



AN EARFUL
John Baldessari's
"Beechoven's Trumpet
(With Ear)," Op. 133,
2007 is part of the
SDMA exhibit *The Art
of Music*.

LISTEN UP The San Diego Museum of Art is striking a chord with its latest blockbuster. The entire curatorial staff collaborated ensemble-style on *The Art of Music*, which is one of the museum's most ambitious shows to date. Featuring works by the likes of Picasso, Dali, Matisse, Rufino Tamayo and Chuck Close, the exhibition also includes rare artifacts, such as an original manuscript from Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. Divided into three thematic sections—the musician, the social function of music and the abstract representations of sound—it's a truly unique look at artists and auditory inspiration. Among the standouts? A piece by San Diego native John Baldessari, who was born in National City and attended SDSU. "He's widely considered one of the most influential artists of his generation," says curator Ariel Plotek. "The sculpture we're including in the show features signs and sounds with style and wit." We're also tuning in for special musical performances, starting with SDMA's yearlong *Art of Music* concert series, Sept. 26-Jan. 5, tickets from \$12, 1650 El Prado, Balboa Park, 619.232.7931, sdmart.org —AnnaMaria Stephens