

Arts & Entertainment

A weekly guide to music, theater, and more. Edited by Rebecca Wallace



The price and the weather are right for free outdoor concerts on the Midpeninsula

Summer sounds

by Rebecca Wallace

While the line-up has shuffled a bit, free outdoor concerts still abound in the Palo Alto area this summer. There's jazz at Stanford Shopping Center, a battle of the bands on California Avenue, and music from lands far and wide at the second annual World Music Day.

So far, 48 groups have already signed up to play at World Music Day, organizer Claude Ezran said earlier this week (42 played last year). The June 20 event runs from 3 to 7:30 p.m. downtown.

It looks like about half of the musicians are returning and half are new, including opera singer Catherine Vincenti, Ezran said. "Finally! I love opera and really wanted to have opera at the festival."

The news is less upbeat from the city of Palo Alto, which discontinued its lunchtime Brown Bag concerts due to budget cuts. But

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From top: Tom Rigney plays Cajun music in Menlo Park's Fremont Park on Aug. 4; Tom Chapin sings folk and pop at the July 17 Twilight concert in Palo Alto's Mitchell Park; Steve Lucky and Carmen Getit play the SFJAZZ series at Stanford Shopping Center on June 10.



Hale Baskin sings at Stanford Shopping Center on July 8.



Clockwise from top left: Fotia plays Greek music at the Twilight concert on Aug. 14 in Mitchell Park; the Orquesta Moderna Tradiçión brings Cuban jazz to Stanford Shopping Center on June 17; the literary rock band Glass Wave (recently profiled in the Weekly) will perform at World Music Day on June 20; the Curtis Brothers play the Stanford mall on Aug. 5.

Summer sounds

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the city's Twilight Concert Series is still planned, moving from Tuesday evenings to Saturdays.

And a new free outdoor concert and dance series kicks off this summer at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center in Palo Alto.

The first series to begin is the **Stanford Summer Jazz Series**, which hosts acts in the Stanford Shopping Center's Clock Tower Plaza (near Neiman Marcus) on Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m., June 10 through Aug. 12.

Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Bums play jump blues and swing on the first Thursday, with Orquesta La Moderna Tradiçión performing Cuban music on June 17. Later performers include Menlo-Atherton High School graduate and singer Hale Baskin on July 8. The concerts are presented by SFJAZZ; for details, go to sfjazz.org and click on "SFJAZZ Summerfest."

At the **JCC** at 3921 Fabian Way in Palo Alto, the Capriccio Chamber Orchestra is the first performer in the new series at Jessica L. Saal Town Square, playing at 7:30 p.m. on June 12. The events run through Aug. 22 and also include tango with Igor Polk at 6:30 p.m. on June 17 and African folk songs with Baba Ken Okulolo & the Nigerian Brothers at 7:30 on June 26. Go to paloaltojcc.org.

World Music Day brings performers to the sidewalks and corners of downtown Palo Alto on June 20. New musicians this year include Amanda and Art Sirota singing original children's songs; the Ken Brown gypsy jazz combo; and the Menlo Park indie band No Soap Radio. Go to pamusiceday.org.

In July, the Weekly **Twilight** series begins with folk/pop/kids' artist Tom Chapin performing on July 17 at Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Drive. Later performers include the Afro-Cuban jazz ensemble Pellejo Seco on July 31 on California Avenue, and the Greek-music band Foti on Aug. 14 in Mitchell Park. It all wraps up Aug. 21 with a "battle" of local youth bands on California Avenue. All concerts go from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Go to cityof-paloalto.org.

Outside Palo Alto, **Menlo Park** holds its annual summer concert series on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Fremont Park, at University Drive and Santa Cruz Avenue. The series runs June 23 through Aug. 11 and includes U2 tribute band Zoo Nation on June 30 and Pat Wilder & Serious Business playing the blues on July 7. Call 650-330-2200.

Mountain View's summer series starts July 8 with the Beatles tribute band The Sun Kings and ends with the '80s band The Spazmatics on Aug. 19, both on Castro St. All concerts go from 6:30 to 8 p.m., with some happening in city parks. Call 650-903-6446 or go to ci.mtnview.ca.us.

Downtown **Redwood City** also has a major outdoor concert lineup, as well as movies and dance alfresco. Go to www.redwoodcity.org/events/music.html. ■



Brian M. Rivera, Velina Brown and Maggie Mason in "Posibilidad."

Theater alfresco

Local theatergoers have several free outdoor options this summer as well.

The Mid-Peninsula Shakespeare Festival makes its annual entrance at Mid-Peninsula High School at 1340 Willow Road in Menlo Park. "The Taming of the Shrew" plays June 5, 6, 13 and 27, with Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island" on June 11, 12, 20 and 25, and Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" on June 18, 19 and 26. Shows are at 8 p.m.; go to festivaltheatreensemble.org.

Peninsula Youth Theatre presents family-friendly stagings of classic tales, June 25 through Aug. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in Palo Alto, Mountain View and Saratoga. Shows include "Three Oranges" on June 25 at Cubberley Amphitheatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto; and "Hansel and Gretel" on July 2 at the ParkStage adjacent to the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts at 500 Castro St. Go to pyt.net.

In August, the San Francisco Mime Troupe gives free Palo Alto performances of its satirical "Posibilidad, or Death of the Worker." Shows are at Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Drive, on Aug. 27 (6:30 p.m. music, 7 p.m. show) and Aug. 28 (3:30 p.m. music, 4 p.m. show). Go to sfmt.org.



NOTICE OF VACANCY ON THE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION ONE UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING APRIL 30, 2011 (HUO)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council is seeking applications for the Public Art Commission from persons interested in serving in an unexpired term ending on April 30, 2011.

Eligibility Requirements: The Public Art Commission is composed of seven members who are not Council Members, officers, or employees of the city, and will be appointed by the City Council, serving without pay. Regular meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

Qualifications: Members of the Public Art Commission either shall be members of the Architectural Review Board or shall be professional visual artists, professional visual art educators, professional visual arts scholars, or visual arts collectors whose authorities and skills are known and respected in the community and, whenever feasible, who have demonstrated an interest in, and have participated in, the arts program of the City.

Application forms and appointment information are available in the City Clerk's Office, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto (650-329-2571), or at www.cityofpaloalto.org.

Deadline for receipt of applications in the City Clerk's Office is 5:30 p.m., Thursday, June 24, 2010.

DONNA J. GRIDER, MMC
City Clerk

PALO ALTO RESIDENCY IS NOT A REQUIREMENT.