

HEADLINER BIOGRAPHIES

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29th Annual San Francisco Free Folk Festival

June 18 - 19, 2005

DUNSMUIR SCOTTISH DANCERS

The Dunsmuir Scottish Dancers are one of the demonstration dance teams of the [San Francisco chapter of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society](#). Frequent participants in the San Francisco Free Folk Festival, the group will both perform on the main stage and lead a workshop. They are delightful to watch and dance with, communicating the combination of elegance and power unique to Scottish Country Dance.

M'EARTH TONES

The group is a smaller offshoot of the World Harmony Chorus. M'Earth Tones was founded by Freyda Epstein who died tragically 2 years ago; their first performance was at a service for her. Their membership is drawn from all over the Bay Area, and the SFFFF will be one of their first performances with the current lineup.

WORLD HARMONY CHORUS

The World Harmony Chorus performs choral music from African, South American, European, and American Gospel traditions, and is an outgrowth of a new choral program at the Mountain View-based Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA). Daniel Steinberg, the founder and director, has been a teaching and performing musician with many Bay Area folk ensembles, including the Hillbillies from Mars, for over twenty years. With the establishment of this choir, he has brought to fruition his vision of community building through music. Members come from the South Bay, East Bay, Peninsula and San Francisco. The choir is open to everyone, with no prior singing experience required.

ASWAN DANCERS

Egyptian and Belly dance enlighten our senses with Middle Eastern culture through passionate sensual dance and hypnotic music.

RAY BIERL

Best known here as an expert contradance fiddler, he's also reputed as a guitar-playing singer of good old-time songs, cowboy songs, and country weepers.

MCBRIDE IRISH DANCERS

The McBride Irish Step Dancers will demonstrate the exhilarating Irish Step soft and hard shoe dancing. We also offer a bit of info on the history of Step Dance Competition and Costuming. Come take a peek into the colorful and exciting world of Irish Step Dancing!

LOOSE CANONS

The Loose Canons women sing intriguing songs from all over, mostly a cappella. Meeting every Sunday night, alternating between SF and Berkeley, they give large and small performances throughout the year, often with a seasonal bent.

BRASSWORKS

The Brassworks performs a wide range of musical styles: Renaissance, Baroque, Classical & Romantic, folk & fiddle tunes, marches, Ragtime, Dixieland, blues, swing, rock, Motown, Latin, Broadway show tunes and concert works. They're wonderfully versatile!

MUDLARK

An exciting new trio, including Laura Sandage and Katie Henry, sing an eclectic mix of both traditional and new material. Their strongest influences are traditional old-time, gospel, and folk music.

VECERNICA - Saturday evening's International Dance band.

Their repertoire includes a broad variety of folk-dance music from many countries and cultures, including the British Isles, France, Austria, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe and the Balkans (including Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech and Slovak Republics, Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Serbia), Turkey, and Israel, along with tunes from Canada, Mexico, South America, and the U.S.

TINKER'S DAMN - Celtic Showcase.

A five-piece band who play the traditional music of Ireland, Scotland and other Celtic lands, along with compelling, original compositions in the traditional style. At its heart, Tinker's Damn portrays Celtic music in its most unvarnished light – honest, straightforward and bound to make feet tap.



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