

**April 30, 2005**

Media Contacts (NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

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***For Immediate Release:***

## **29<sup>th</sup> Annual San Francisco Free Folk Festival to Offer Two Days of Free Music and Dance**

On June 18 and 19, performers representing traditions from around the world will converge on Roosevelt Middle School for the 29<sup>th</sup> annual San Francisco Free Folk Festival. The two-day event is, as the name suggests, staged completely free of charge, and all Bay Area lovers of music and dance are encouraged to participate!

Nationally and internationally acclaimed performers, as well as gifted local musicians, singers, dancers and storytellers, will offer concerts and workshops throughout the festival. Family-oriented activities will include crafts and special music performances.

### **2005 Festival Details**

The 2005 Free Folk Festival will take place from Noon until 11pm on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at Roosevelt Middle School, 460 Arguello St. at Geary, San Francisco. Food will be available onsite, and there will also be a Music and Crafts Marketplace.

Scheduled concert performers include:

- Global harmonies and songs from M'EARTHTONES
- RAY BIERL, a master of fiddle, guitar and song
- Egyptian and Belly dance from the sensuous ASWAN DANCERS
- LOOSE CANONS - World songs *a cappella* ensemble
- dynamic Irish Step Dance performed by MCBRIDE IRISH DANCERS
- BRASSWORKS from Renaissance to Rock 'n' Roll
- DUNSMUIR SCOTTISH DANCERS perform elegant strathspeys and energetic reels

For those who want to be hands- (and feet-) on, a sampling of workshops to be offered includes:

- Instrumental music: Django jam/Gypsy swing guitar, Skiffle/Jug Band, concertina, and a Celtic Showcase led by Tinker's Damn

- Singing workshops: sea shanties, peace & political songs, and songs of Love, Lust and Labor
- Dance workshops: Scottish Highland, Circle dances, French, Regency Ballroom and English ceilidh
- Children's and all-family activities, such as crafts, music & movement, storytelling, songwriting and beginning guitar
- Evening dance parties: International folk dancing with Vecernica, and Contra on Sunday

and much more!

While the Festival would be a special event under any circumstances, what makes it unique is the fact that it is an all-volunteer effort. Not only do members of the sponsoring organization – the San Francisco Folk Music – serve as volunteer organizers, but all performers and workshop leaders donate their time and talents to the festival as well.

The San Francisco Free Folk Festival was conceived in 1976 by the San Francisco Folk Music Club, which staged it for the first two years at the Hall of Flowers. It then moved to Fort Mason, where it remained for 13 years, before moving to the John Adams campus of City College until that venue became too small. Eight years ago, the festival moved to its current home at Roosevelt Middle School. Between 2,000 and 3,000 people attend the event every year. It takes about 200 volunteers to stage the Festival.

Onsite parking is extremely limited, with street parking available within reasonable walking distances. The festival is easy to reach by public transportation, using the MUNI 1, 2, 4, 33 or 38 lines. The event is wheelchair-accessible.

For a complete schedule of concerts, activities, and workshops, email us at [info@sffolkfest.org](mailto:info@sffolkfest.org), or access the festival's web site at [www.sffolkfest.org](http://www.sffolkfest.org). The Web site will be updated continually as performers and workshop leaders are added and confirmed.



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