

April 30, 2007

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For Immediate Release:

31st Annual San Francisco Free Folk Festival, June 16–17

The 2007 Free Folk Festival will take place on Saturday, June 16th and Sunday, June 17th from 12pm–11pm at City College of San Francisco, San Francisco. Food will be available onsite, and there will also be a Music and Crafts Marketplace. Admission is *free*.

The festival is a gift to the people of San Francisco and the Bay Area from the San Francisco Folk Music Club, founded in 1949 by Dave Rothkop. From its beginnings in informal gatherings, the Club was reorganized as a non-profit ten years later by Herb Jager to assure its continuity and promote concerts such as the monthly Hootenanny, benefit performances and other activities related to the community. In mid-1962 when Jager left the area, Faith Petric took responsibility for keeping the Club functioning and in 1964 started publication of the *folknik*.

The Club shares with esteemed folk icon Pete Seeger the aim “to put songs on people’s lips instead of just in their ears” and to remind ourselves that music helps a lot to put dancing in their feet! This event is for those who want to smile a lot, create new friendships, and be surrounded by music, dance and song, and by a wonderful community.

New Venue

After many years at the old location, the festival has moved to City College, returning this time to Ocean Campus in the North Gym and nearby. Originally conceived in 1976 by the SFFMC, it was staged 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. The festival was then held at Roosevelt Middle School for several years. When current construction is completed at City College in 2008, we will use the new facility.

Co-sponsor of the SFFFF, CCSF is one of the largest community colleges in the nation, offering courses and degree programs in a wide variety of subjects. CCSF has comprehensive continuing education, working adults, and distance learning/online programs, as well as contract education and vocational education programs.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 people attend the event every year. 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 presenting organization – the San Francisco Folk Music Club – serve as volunteer organizers, but all performers and workshop leaders donate their time and talents to the festival as well. It takes about 200 volunteers to stage the Festival.

Two days of free music & dance

Performers representing traditions from around the world will be involved in the two-day event which is, as the name suggests, staged completely free of charge. 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.

Festival details

On the ***Faith Petric Stage*** – a myriad of folk highlights: Grupo Germinal (Latin American), Down Not Out, Folk This!, Calaveras, Yore Folk Dance Ensemble(Turkish), Swing Theory, Kaiaulu (Hawaiian), JouJou, Chris Cotten & The New Hokem 3, Big Wide Grin (from Virginia), East Bay Harmony, Faith Petric, Techung (Tibet), Dunsmuir Scottish Dancers ...

In the ***Woody Guthrie Café*** – the diversity of world music: Moh Alileche (Algeria), Faux Hawaiians, Back40, Sauce Piquante (Cajun), Karpov (Klezmer), Beatbeat Whisper, Porchsteps, Felina (Portland), The Effects of Cable Television (L.A.), Caravan, Craig Ventresco (ragtime guitar), Mamadou & Vanessa (Mali)...

The ***Singer songwriter Showcase***, full of abundant new talent: Dreamchair, Jeff Zittrain, Nighthouse, Rick DiDia & Airleene Espiritu, WEE the Band, Citymouth Countrymouth, Mokai, Jo D'Anna, Derek See, Chris Volpe, Dave Lioneli, Eileen Hazel, Hali Hammer...

The ***Pete Seeger Room*** is a nice little venue to get close to the music, and family oriented activities will include concerts with a variety of artists from the Children's Music Network, crafts, storytelling and children's workshops.

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

Instrumental music: Skiffle/Jug Band, concertina, Cajun jam, acoustic bass, tin whistle, Italian mandolin, Contra dance band, and 1950s blues

Singing workshops: Sea shanties, ballads, mouth music, barbershop harmony, song circles, and songs of Love, Lust and Seduction

Dance workshops: Scottish country dance, Tap, Waltz, Lindy hop swing, Salsa, Israeli dances, Turkish, Argentine Tango, 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 A Vintage Ballroom with Cathleen Meyers on Saturday; Contra dance on Sunday

and much more.

Directions and Parking

The festival is easy to reach by public transportation: MUNI lines 29 Sunset, 49 Van Ness/Mission, 15 Third Street, 36 Teresita, 43 Masonic, J Church, K Ingleside, and 54 Felton run along Phelan and Ocean Avenues. Balboa Park is the nearest BART station, about a 10 minute walk from the venue.

City College is easily accessible from I280 – From whichever direction you come, get onto I280 in San Francisco, and exit at Ocean Avenue. If heading South/West, turn right onto Ocean Ave. If heading North/East, turn left onto Geneva Avenue, and it will merge onto Ocean Ave. Turn right at Phelan Avenue and right again at the next light onto City College campus. Follow the signs on campus for parking instructions and walking directions to the festival site in the northeast corner of campus.

Further information

For a complete schedule of concerts, activities, and workshops, access the festival's Web site at www.sffolkfest.org. The Web site will be updated continually as performers and workshop leaders are added and confirmed.



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