



That song mom hummed. The dance from a family wedding. Experience **the music that connects cultures and generations – yours.** It's roots music. Dance, sing and play it – at the San Francisco Free Folk Festival.

The San Francisco Folk Music Club presents the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual **San Francisco Free Folk Festival**  
Two Free Days of Music, Dance & Song: **June 13 & 14, 2009, noon-10pm**  
Presidio Middle School - 450 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Geary, San Francisco

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## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual San Francisco Free Folk Festival: June 13 & 14, 2009

Laurie Lewis & Tom Rozum & friends, Los Cenzontles, Forrofiando, The Earl Brothers, Kapalakiko, The Wranglers, The Palm Wine Boys, Claudia Russell, Gaucho, Beatbeat Whisper, 49 Special, Faith Petric, and many more featured in two days of free music, dance & song.

San Francisco, CA - The 2009 San Francisco Free Folk Festival will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> from noon–10pm at Presidio Middle School (450 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Geary), San Francisco.

This unique, fun-for-the whole-family event features nearly 100 music and dance workshops, more than 50 free concerts, lively anyone-can-join evening dances, along with constant jamming, song swaps, and myriad other frolics. It's a hoot! Where else can you:

- **Be green!** Learn how to make and play jug band instruments from 'old junk'
- **Be a good parent!** Take the kiddies to a puppet show, visit a full stage dedicated to children's performers; see how music can free their talents – and develop their souls!
- **Be dancing!** Learn to Lindy Hop, salsa dance, contra dance, or jig or dozens of other dances – no partner required!
- **Be singing!** From stage to barn, take a harmony singing lesson with bluegrass star, Laurie Lewis, and hear and learn Australian sheep shearing songs. It's all here!
- **Be part of the world:** Hear amusing and touching songs from the 94-year-old local legend, Faith Petric. View an award-winning documentary about pre-mariachi Mexican folk music. Hear dozens of amazing acts performing everything from Brazilian forro, gypsy jazz and Hawaiian to all sorts of bluegrass and down home roots and singer songwriters.

- more -

This is one **jam-packed weekend of fun and excitement** for all lovers of dance and music – and it's a beautiful cross-section of the abundant and diverse world of acoustic music and dance cultures which make the Bay Area their home. The Folk Festival is fun and inspiring; in addition to **feeding your soul**, great healthy food will be available on site, and guests will also enjoy a music and crafts marketplace with distinctive and handmade items.

**Headliners and Rising Stars:** A proven showcase for emerging talent, the festival attracts back many folk-lovers and successful alumni. This year, we'll feature Laurie Lewis & Tom Rozum & friends, Los Cenzontles, Forrofiando, The Earl Brothers, Kapalakiko, The Wronglers, The Palm Wine Boys, Claudia Russell, Gaucho, Beatbeat Whisper, 49 Special, Faith Petric, and many more!

**Two days of free music & dance:** Performers representing traditions from around the world will be involved in the two-day event, which is 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:** for those who want to be hands- (and feet-) on, a sampling of workshops to be offered includes:

- Instrumental music: concertina, Cajun jam, acoustic bass, tin whistle, mandolin, Contra dance band, 1950s blues...
- Singing workshops: sea shanties, ballads, barbershop harmony, song circles - and songs of love, lust and seduction!
- Dance workshops: Scottish country dance, tap, waltz, Lindy hop swing, salsa, tango, and English ceilidh.
- Children's and all-family activities: crafts, music & movement, storytelling, songwriting and beginning guitar
- Evening dance parties: International folk dancing, vintage Ballroom, Contra dance - and much more.

**Festival History:** A gift to the Bay Area for 33 years thanks to incredibly dedicated (or are they passionately insane?) volunteers and key donors who love the people's music, admission is *free*. (Between 2,000 and 3,000 people attend the event every year.) This joyous 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. Organized as a nonprofit ten years later by Herb Jager to assure its continuity and promote concerts like the monthly mainstay - "Hootenanny" – plus benefit performances and activities benefiting the community. When Jager left the

area in 1962, Faith Petric took responsibility for the club and two years later started the publication of *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 us that music helps put dancing in our 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.

While the festival would be a special event under any circumstances, what helps make 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. The SF Free Folk Festival is an annual gift from the heart to the city we love! It takes about 200 volunteers to stage the Festival – and more are always welcome!

**Further information:** For a complete schedule of concerts, activities, and workshops, access the festival’s Web site at [www.sffolkfest.org](http://www.sffolkfest.org). The website is updated continually as performers and workshop leaders are added and confirmed.

*Music with a Past... Yours!*