



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The City of Redwood City presents
Featured Cultural Events
A Series of Free Cultural Events on Courthouse Square**

The weekends bring an incredible variety of themed concerts and entertainment to Downtown Redwood City, showcasing musical talent from around the world. Starting on July 17th with Flamenco and Jazz-Infused Latin Guitarist Raul Midón, you can revel in the discovery of a different unique culture through its music and movement at three very special events: July 17th, August 22nd, and September 18th.

Raul Midón • Flamenco, Jazz-Infused Latin Guitar - July 17, 2010

Raul Midón unleashes a silky, soulful tenor and dazzling percussive guitar style — a syncopated, flamenco- and jazz-infused approach in which bass, harmony, and melodic lines emanate from the fretboard in one slap-happy storm. If that weren't enough, Midón busts out his improvisational mouth horn technique, in which he creates a bebop "trumpet" solo entirely with his lips, earning himself a spontaneous burst of mid-song applause from the audience in the process. It's a virtuosic performance, and one that reveals what has made Midón such an exciting artist to watch and hear.

The New Mexico native funnels all that creativity and fiery passion into his third album, *Synthesis*, which he recorded in Los Angeles in June 2009 with legendary producer and bassist **Larry Klein**, who is noted for his work with such luminaries as **Joni Mitchell**, **Herbie Hancock**, and **Peter Gabriel**. A genre-defying blend of soul, pop, jazz, folk, and Latin elements, *Invisible Chains* showcases Midón's evolution as an artist as he sets some of his more biting insights about betrayal, fear, loss, and the American Dream to deceptively up-tempo swinging rhythms and deliriously catchy melodies. The result is an intimate, classic-sounding sound that is sure to delight newcomers to Midón's music as well as those who have been following his remarkable talent for years.

www.raulmidon.com

www.imnworld.com/artists/detail/151/raul-midn

Jayme Stone • Polyrhythmic Banjo and Beyond - August 22, 2010

Jayme Stone keeps an ear to the ground. His curiosity and unlikely set of reference points started early with the quirky physics of the banjo, which led to long-lasting lessons with a series of maestros, from **Béla Fleck** to **Bill Frisell**. Influenced by Japanese poetry and Brazilian literature and featuring what he calls a "tiny symphony that takes place inside an imaginary light bulb", Stone's album, **The Utmost**, won the **2008 Juno Award** for Instrumental Album of the Year.

The most recent chapter in Stone's musical travelogue takes place in Africa. He went knowing what's still news to most: that the hide-covered instrument with an "extra" drone string we call the banjo actually comes from West Africa. An eight-week trip to Mali was supported by a prestigious **Chalmers Arts Fellowship** and found Stone sitting in with **Toumani Diabate** and the Symmetric Orchestra in downtown Bamako, lost in circles of Wassoulou polyrhythms and in a rural Dogon village with no electricity where he inadvertently discovered a banjo predecessor unheard of in the West. The resulting album, **Africa to Appalachia**, is a boundary-crossing musical collaboration with singer and kora maestro **Mansa Sissoko**. Produced by David Travers-Smith and featuring celebrated ngoni master **Bassekou Kouyate**, the recording won the **2009 Juno Award** for World Music Album of the Year.

www.jaymestone.com

Vagabond Opera • Bohemian Cabaret - September 18, 2010

European Cabaret! Vintage Americana! Balkan Belly Dance! Neo-Classical Opera! Old World Yiddish Theater! Welcome to the six-piece, Portland, Oregon-based Vagabond Opera.

Based in the Pacific Northwest, yet encompassing the world, Vagabond Opera delivers passionate offerings of Bohemian cabaret. Paris hot Jazz, gut bucket swing, Tangos, Ukrainian folk-punk ballads, Klezmer and vigorous originals meet a world of riverboat gambling queens, Turkish belly dancers, and the enigmatic Marlene Dietrich. Weaving elements of Kurt Weil, Duke Ellington and Edith Piaf with absurdist flair, theatrics and an old world mood, Vagabond Opera presents the new wave of opera--lusty (trained) voices singing in 11 languages and presenting a cabaret of rich musical phrasing, sparkling lyrics and indomitable stage presence, all played with exuberance, skill and a gritty Vagabond edge. This is Opera liberated and reinvented for everyone.

Vagabond Opera is at the vanguard of a growing popularity in the Neo-cabaret phenomenon, and through their theatrical performances, lyrics in 11 languages, and an eclectic repertoire, they liberate opera from its usual construct. This is not your granny's opera, but a visceral artistic ensemble that features powerful instrumental and vocal performances coupled with a highly eclectic and theatrical experience.

<http://vagabondopera.com>

www.eyefortalent.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/artist.detail/artist_id/125

Other Events at Downtown Redwood City's 2010 Summer Series

Along with our Featured Cultural events, other exciting FREE evening events include: Jazz on Main on Mondays, Dancing on the Square on Tuesdays, Movies on the Square on Thursdays, and Music on the Square on Fridays. Other ongoing events in the coming months include six special outdoor exhibits featuring Art on the Square, Monday and Wednesday afternoon performances with Lunchtime on the Square, as well as Sunday Target Family Days.

Full details at www.redwoodcityevents.com

These free events, occurring throughout the summer, are sponsored by the City of Redwood City and its Redevelopment Agency, Civic Cultural Commission and Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department

The Redwood City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department provides recreational facilities and activities for all ages and interests, and supplies building and custodial services for City buildings. Redwood City Parks also operates the Fair Oaks Community Center, providing social, educational, and cultural activities, as well as information, referral, and counseling services to persons living in Redwood City and neighboring communities. Redwood City Parks is more than you think! Its website is located at www.redwoodcity.org/parks.

Visit Redwood City's award-winning website at www.redwoodcity.org for information about the City and its services, the community, recreation programs, education, and local business. Subscribe to Redwood City's email newsletter or other documents by visiting www.redwoodcity.org/egov.

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