



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2009

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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 June 27th with the *Peninsula Symphony*, you can revel in the discovery of a unique culture through its music and movement with four very special events through September 12th.

Peninsula Symphony

June 27, 2009



The Peninsula Symphony, a 90-member community orchestra led by Music Director and Conductor Mitchell Sardou Klein, provides unique and first-class music to the Bay Area community. In addition, as part of its "Bridges to Music" outreach programs, the Symphony shares its passion for music by offering programs in schools, providing free or discounted tickets to students and their families, hosting two music competitions for students, and presenting a free family concert and outdoor summer concert.

Featured in this performance will be **Emily Ford Dirks**, soprano, a Bay Area native who currently divides her time between Berlin, Germany and San Francisco. Her roles include Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan Tutte*), Helena (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Rosalinde (*Die Fledermaus*), Michaela and Frasquita (*Carmen*), Elettra (*Idomeneo*) and Laetitia (*The Old Maid and the Thief*). Since graduating from Manhattan School of Music, Emily has performed at Opera Memphis, New Jersey Opera Theater, the Lidal North festival in Oslo, the Intermezzo festival and Peninsula Symphony.

www.peninsulasymphony.org

Kailash Kher's meteoric rise from a humble upbringing outside of New Delhi to being appointed a judge for the 2008-09 season of *Indian Idol* – all before the age of 30 - is nothing less than remarkable. It is also a testament to the strength and appeal of what is undeniably one of the most unique voices in Indian music today. Despite numerous childhood years of classical Indian music training under the tutelage of nearly 10 different *gurus*, it was the traditional folk songs sung by his father that exerted the most influence on this young artist's life. In 2001, Kailash left New Delhi for Mumbai, home to the highly competitive **Bollywood** film and music industry. Soon after the recording of a handful of jingles, the raw, earthy and soulful strength of his voice - often compared to the late Qawwali maestro **Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan** - caught the attention of every production house and film composer in Mumbai. By 2004, Kailash was catapulted into the spotlight having performed on some of the biggest hits of the India. Since 2001, his credits include over sixty different film soundtracks and nearly two hundred jingles. His band, **Kailash Kher's Kailasa** is a combination of Kailash's strong traditional folk sensibilities and lyrics that invoke Sufi-mystical dimensions, with more modern rock, electronic and funk influences.

www.kailashkher.com

Video at: http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=5324954368422B40

<http://imnworld.com/artists/detail/144/kailash-kher>



Los Pinguos
Argentinean/Spanish Guitar/Peruvian Cajon/Latin Rhythms

August 15, 2009



Los Pinguos... are a unique hybrid of styles that has the passion of the Gipsy Kings, the energy of Manu Chau & the songs of the Beatles. They came to the US from cosmopolitan Buenos Aires, Argentina, with a mixture of Latin rhythms, performed with Spanish guitars, a Cuban Tres, Peruvian *cajón* (box-drum) and harmonizing vocals. Vivacious and infectious, the sound of Los Pinguos has claimed fans worldwide, from their hometown to the streets of Los Angeles. Most recently,

their song, "Tierra Santa" appeared in the Putumayo World Music compilation "BAILA!". Their exciting, passionate live shows have garnered a devoted fan base, which have allowed the band to realize their potential and to reach a wide and diverse audience. For Adrián, José, Juan, Juan Manuel and Santiago, this is only the beginning.

<http://www.lospinguos.com/alejo/otra/index.htm>

Video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ml3gs3fHXrc>

Kepa Junkera • Basque Accordion Master

September 12, 2009

According to the Boston Globe Kepa Junkera is "One of the most impressive world music debuts in years comes from a Basque accordionist, Kepa Junkera...Junkera is a dazzling master of the two-row diatonic button accordion." Playing with his sextet on the mandolin, cuatro, double bass, drums, and txalaparta, Kepa's trikitixas ". The Rocket of Seattle said "...something of a revelation...Not only a remarkable accordionist, but a true master of many styles...a tour de force..."

http://www.eyefortalent.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/artist.detail/artist_id/35

<http://www.kepajunkera.com>



Other Events at Downtown Redwood City's 2009 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, Sunday Swing Dancing with Lindy on the Square, as well as weekend Shakespeare performances, and 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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