

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
First Night Monterey, www.firstnightmonterey.org
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**POPULAR MUSIC OFFERINGS AT FIRST NIGHT MONTEREY 2010:
ROCK, JAZZ, WORLD, ROOTS**

Note: The complete press kit for First Night Monterey 2010, including program guide and images can be viewed at <http://firstnightmonterey.org/PressRoom10.html>

On Dec. 31, 2009 from 3 p.m. to midnight, First Night presents a day-long festival of art, music, dance, and more. First Night is an alcohol-free event that welcomes children, families and revelers of all ages to celebrate community and unity through the arts. First Night Monterey offers a wide array of classical music this year. Most performances occur twice and last 45 minutes. For complete schedules including updates, please visit www.firstnightmonterey.org.

27strings (FK, BL)

Site: 20: Conference Center Ferrante

Time: 9:00 – 9:30; 9:45 – 10:15; 10:30 – 11:00

A Bluegrass ensemble blending styles of old and new with hard-driving rhythm, tight harmony singing and tasteful instrumental solos. This band will delight your ears and keep your toes tapping.

Claudia Villela (JZ, LT)

Site: 25: Carleton Hall (Rel Sci)

Time: 9:15 – 10:00; 10:15 – 11:00

Acoustic Latin jazz from Brazil! Claudia Villela has been described as “the greatest expression of Brazilian music in the US today”. Listen and be transported by her soaring vocals and evocative lyrics to the colorful sights and sounds of life in South America.

Grumbling Ginger (FK/RR)

Site: 20: Conference Center Ferrante

Time: 6:30 – 7:00; 7:15 – 7:45; 8:00 – 8:30

Original acoustic folk-rock with a Celtic twist that First Nighters love. Featuring vocals and songwriting by UK recording artist Jana Heller, a Grumbling Ginger concert recreates the atmosphere of a British folk club with songs and storytelling.

Hootenanny (FK)

Site: 8: MIIS Irvine Auditorium

Time: 6:15 – 6:45; 7:00 – 7:30; 7:45 – 8:15

Stop by for a fun sing-along to tunes from the 40’s to the 70’s. This group is a hoot and you will want to join in - lyric sheets are provided!

Jonah and the Whalewatchers (RR/WM)

Site: 13: Golden State Theatre **Finale Band**

Time: 9:30 – 10:00; 10:15 – 10:45; 11:15 – Midnight

Monterey's premier reggae and world music group! Young and old alike connect with this heartfelt, positive music that fuses Caribbean and African beats with American jazz, blues and soul to create a unique reggae sound. Finale ticket needed.

Mario Flores Latin Ensemble (JZ)

Site: 17a: Conference Center Serra Ballroom

Time: 7:00 – 7:45; 8:00 – 8:45

Hot Latin Jazz delivering rhythmically vibrant soundscapes in the tradition of Tito Puente, Cal Tjader, Chano Pozo, Mongo Santamaria and Willie Bobo. Get ready to rumba, swing, salsa or just plain dance!

Red Beans & Rice (BL) Finale Band

Site: 17a: Conference Center Serra Ballroom

Time: 9:30 – 10:30; 11:15 – Midnight

This popular Monterey Bay band specializes in up-tempo danceable blues. Formed in 1993, their blend of Chicago, Texas swing, Louisiana, contemporary and original music has garnered them numerous awards. Finale Ticket is needed.

Sambahemians

Site: Art Attack

Time: after parade

Energetic, upbeat, and a real crowd pleaser best describe this local Brazilian percussion group. Playing an arrangement authentic Brazilian carnival beats and syncopated rhythms from all regions of Brazil. This spirited and colorful group of drummers and dancers are known for getting crowds out of their chairs and on the dance floor.

Sadza Marimba (WM)

Site: 21: Conference Center Steinbeck

Time: 9:00 – 9:30; 9:45 – 10:15; 10:30 – 11:00

Ecstatic, polyrhythmic dance music performed on six handmade wooden marimbas with gourd shakers, drum and vocal accompaniment. Songs are based on the traditional melodies of the Shona people of Zimbabwe.

Shinsho Mugen Daiko (Taiko Drummers) (WM)

Site: 1: Colton Lawn Stage- Opening Ceremony

Time: 3:15 – 3:30; 4:00 – 4:30; 5:00 – 5:30

Shinsho means "Celestial Bodies" and Mugen means "Source of Dreams". Experience the thunderous roar and exquisite physicality of these Taiko Drummers as they perform traditional Japanese drumming.

Sirenz (WM)

Site: 24a: Conference Center Colton

Time: 6:15 – 6:45; 7:00 – 7:30; 7:45 – 8:15

An a capella quartet with dynamic harmonies, funky beats and soul stirring lyrics. These talented young women compose their own originals and arrange traditional songs from around the globe.

The Black Irish Band (FK)

Site: 13: Golden State Theatre

Time: 6:15 – 6:45; 7:00 – 7:30; 7:45 – 8:15; 8:30 – 9:00

Hailing from historic Gold Rush Country, this five-member band has a musical style that is as timeless as the rugged landscape of the west. The band captures the spirit of the pioneering immigrants to this land, with Irish, Scottish, Italian, and American folk music.

The Wharf Rats (RK/BL)

Site: 15: Rabobank

Time: 9:15 – 10:00; 10:15 – 1:00

Characterized by tight harmonies and bluesy guitar licks, The Wharf Rats is your smooth rock alternative for your New Year's Eve celebration.

The Usual Suspects (RR)

Site: 15: Rabobank

Time: 6:45 – 7:30; 7:45 – 8:30

The Usual Suspects bring back their searing blues and rock enjoyed by past First Night visitors. The band features Alan Shapiro on lead vocals, a Nashville artist who has written two songs for Johnny Cash.

First Night Monterey was founded in 1992 as a private non-profit organization to produce Art Works! free year-round community outreach programs and arts education workshops that culminate in the landmark New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts on December 31st in historic downtown Monterey. With more than 30 venues, this event provides a family-friendly, alcohol-free setting for our community to come together to participate and celebrate the arts in welcoming and accessible ways, and has become a local tradition.

Find First Night Monterey on Facebook and Twitter