

THURSDAY, June 16, 2011

Palo Alto to host world music event



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BY RYAN THOMAS RIDDLE
Daily Post Staff Writer

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blue button-down shirt Singer had been wearing the morning he'd been found lying unconscious on

stumped sheriff's investigators, who suspended the investigation but maintain it is still an open case

pletely ruled out they don't have e substantiate it



INTERNATIONAL SOUNDS — Palo Alto's World Music Day comes to the downtown on Sunday.

PA to hear world's music

BY RACHEL STOBER
Daily Post Correspondent

The street corners and plazas of downtown Palo Alto will be alive with the sound of music from all over the globe this Sunday to celebrate Palo Alto's third World Music Day.

University Avenue will be closed to traffic from Cowper Street to High Street for the festival, which will feature over 45 different professional and amateur musical groups from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Began in France

World Music Day, or Fete de la Musique in French, originated in France and has since spread across the world. Palo Alto resident and Humans Relations Commissioner Claude Ezran started Palo Alto World Music Day two years ago after seeing similar events in London and Paris.

"It's been increasingly successful each year," Ezran said. "It's not like you plan to go to a concert and buy a ticket and know what you're going to see. Here you go corner to corner and it's unexpected which performer you'll get to hear. It adds an element of surprise and spontaneity and you discover things you didn't know about."



The key difference this year will be the closure of University Avenue, which Ezran hopes will add to the atmosphere and draw an even larger crowd than the estimated 10,000 that attended last summer.

"It's the right thing to do," Palo Alto Mayor Sid Espinosa said in a press release. "What better way to spend Father's Day than bringing the whole family downtown to listen to live music, eat good food and enjoy downtown Palo Alto?"

A variety of sounds

The festival, from program distributors to the performers themselves, relies entirely on volunteers, and all performances are

free and open to the public. True to its name, World Music Day hosts a wide range of genres such as acoustic, blues, jazz, choral, classical, Celtic, Greek, Chinese and other world music.

Among those performing will be opera singer Catherine Vincenti and local groups including Peninsulares Barbershop Chorus, Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra, Buffalo-Chips and Ken Brown Gypsy Jazz Combo. Roughly two-thirds of the musicians are returning performers, according to Ezran.

'Mecca for music lovers'

Alan Keith, a member of traditional French folk music and dance group Les Campagnards, has been playing at Lytton Plaza since the first year of Palo Alto Music Day, which he says is "kind of a Mecca for music lovers."

"It's a lot of fun and it gets our group and our music into the public eye," Keith said. "The problem with traditional French music is that it's relatively obscure outside of certain regions of France and it's virtually unknown in this country. [World Music Day] is a chance to get together and jam with one another and entertain and educate the public at the same time."