

ENTERTAINMENT

World Music Day to kick off sixth year

BY JERAMY GORDON
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Palo Alto's sixth annual World Music Day kicks off on Sunday and organizers hope sharing the day with Stanford's graduation is a boon for attendees.

University Avenue in downtown Palo Alto will be closed to traffic between Webster and High streets between 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. while dozens of bands and performers play.

Claude Ezran, a Palo Alto resident and tech executive, founded the festival six years ago, said he selected Father's Day because he noticed heavier foot traffic on that day downtown.

"It's becoming a nice tradition in Palo Alto," he said. "It's a bit different than your typical street fair."

It wasn't until a few years ago, he said, that Stanford's graduation moved to the same weekend.

"Stanford's graduation is in the morning and maybe it brings more people downtown," he said.

More than 50 professional and amateur musical groups will perform a variety of genres on street corners and plazas, including jazz, blues, classical, pop, rock and Indian.

Ezran, who's running for Palo



GUITARIST PETE KELSO performs during a previous World Music Day festival in downtown Palo Alto. Photo by Charlotte Dean.

Alto City Council this November, has handed the management of the festival over to the Palo Alto Recreation Foundation.

There will be many noteworthy groups appearing at the event, including choral ensembles M'Earth-Tones, the Peninsulaires, the Peninsula Harmony Chorus, and the World Harmony Chorus.

King Plaza will be the place for dance music. Bands performing there include Sadza Marimba, playing Zimbabwe music; Acoustic Soni, playing acoustic folk/rock;

and T Clemente Band, a 70s and 80s rock 'n' roll band.

At Lytton Plaza, Hands on Fire will play World Tribal Funk, followed by Bhangra Dance Studio performing Punjabi folk dance, and Grounds for Dismissal playing country music.

The festival will feature 17 stages along University Avenue and King Plaza at Palo Alto City Hall. Each stage will host three performers at different times throughout the day. For more information visit pamusicday.org.