

Season Highlights: 30th annual Music & Market Series

The 30th Annual Music & Market Series returns to Todos Santos Plaza on May 17th through September 13th, running every Thursday evening, 6:30 to 8pm. As always, the venerable series features a "cream of the crop" schedule of Bay Area bands and one of the best Farmer's Markets anywhere.

The Music & Market Series is a trend-setting, eclectic, award-winning series that for thirty years has been building community and commerce in downtown Concord. Set in beautiful Todos Santos Plaza, this grand-daddy of civic concert series attracts thousands of people every week for great music, good company, and delicious food.

The series launches Thursday, May 17 with a one-night Mardi Gras featuring Cajun fiddle master Tom Rigney. No stranger to Concord, Tom grew up in the Diablo Valley and now tours internationally. He and his excellent band, Flambeau, continue to be a perennial favorite downtown with their dynamic renditions of Gulf Coast classics.

Not only is this the 30th anniversary of the Music and Market Series, it is Concord's 150th anniversary as a city. To honor Concord and salute the area's regional talent, the schedule features many local bands, beginning in May with "Songs for Steve" celebrating the work and memory of musician/activist Steve Sage. For decades Steve taught rock 'n roll at DVC and was a much-loved guitarist in the Diablo Valley. This show features many of the excellent rock 'n roll bands he mentored through the years.

The Purple Ones will return on Prince's June 7th birthday to celebrate the music of the legendary R&B artist. The Purple Ones are an awesome show band with a full horn section and an array of colorful singers. Prince would have been 60 years old.

As part of the July 4th festivities at Todos Santos Plaza, a statue of Don Salvio Pacheco will be unveiled to commemorate Concord's 150th birthday. To honor the historic beginnings of Concord—and fresh from their command performance at this year's Oscars--the extraordinary group Mariachi Mexicanisimo will perform Thursday, July 5th. There is no better Mariachi north of the border.

Seattle-based Country music sensation Chance McKinney stops by Concord on his way south on Thursday, July 12th. McKinney is getting accolades for his genre-bending sound which mixes hip hop and rock n roll with country music taking it in new directions. Charming and charismatic onstage, Chance McKinney will certainly be a highlight this season.

Virtuosity will be on display when Incendio takes the Todos Santos stage on Thursday, August 16th. Incendio is comprised of incredible Spanish guitarists with a tight band sure to lift you off your feet. Move over Gypsy Kings, Incendio is in town!

On Thursday, September 6th the Lafayette Studio Big Band will perform classics from the Great American Songbook. From Count Basie to Sinatra, this seventeen-piece orchestra features some of the best big band jazz musicians in the Bay Area.

The Tuesday Blues Series returns with four shows in July starting Tuesday, July 10th with blues vocalist Dana Fuchs on tour from Texas. Compared to a modern-day Janis Joplin, her searing performances draw rave reviews. Dana Fuchs gained international notoriety as one of the leads in the movie “Across the Universe” by Julie Taymor.

Tommy Castro returns to the park on Tuesday, July 17th. A magnetic performer famous for his fiery blues guitar solos and compositions, Tommy has been at the summit of the Bay Area Blues scene for over twenty-five years. Don't miss Tommy Castro and the Painkillers this July.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 21st for a noon to 6pm “**A Concord Chella-bration**” honoring the 30th anniversary of the Music and Market Series. Stay tuned for details.

Concord's 3rd Annual “**Dark Side of the Moon Night: A Family Friendly Music and Science Extravaganza**” will shine again this October. This popular special event features the band House of Floyd expertly performing the music of Pink Floyd to an amazing laser light show. The opening segment will intersperse themed music with “moon talks” by special guests from the astronomy and science community. And there will also be an interactive “Ask a Scientist” village as well. Date and details to follow.

Come see why Concord was picked as one of the ten best small cities for live music in the USA by online magazine Livability.com based in Nashville. Concord has much to be proud of with such a vibrant, trend-setting downtown summer music scene three decades in the making.