



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Jean Shirk (510) 547-8248
jeanshirk@freightandsalvage.org
July 28, 2008

**Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse Presents
First Annual Downtown Berkeley MusicFest August 21-24;
More than 30 Artists to Perform at Over a Dozen
Downtown Venues During Four-Day Festival**

**Freight's Annual Fiddle Summit with Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas Highlights Festival;
Roda Theatre, Anna's Jazz Island, Jupiter, The Jazzschool and Other Venues to
Showcase Folk, Jazz, Bluegrass, Country, Celtic, Big Band, Blues, and More**

BERKELEY, Calif., July 28, 2008 – Berkeley's arts and entertainment hub, the Downtown Arts District, will be alive with music for four days August 21-24 when [Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse](http://www.FreightAndSalvage.org) presents the First Annual [Downtown Berkeley MusicFest](http://www.DowntownBerkeleyMusicFest.org), with performances by more than 30 artists in more than a dozen venues. The festival's central event is the Freight's **Annual Fiddle Summit** with **Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas, Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill**, and **Bruce Molsky** Thursday, August 21 at the Roda Theatre.

The festival, produced by [Freight & Salvage](http://www.FreightAndSalvage.org) with support from the Downtown Berkeley Association, the City of Berkeley, San Francisco Foundation, and KPFA Public Radio, is a four-day showcase for the richly diverse Berkeley Downtown music and cultural scene. The event encompasses an array of musical performances spanning the genres of folk, Celtic, bluegrass and country to jazz, blues, r&b, big band and beyond.

Among the artists performing are Wake the Dead, Scott Amendola and Wil Blades, the Junius Courtney Big Band featuring Denise Perrier, 21 Flights, Dee Spencer's Jook Joint Jazz, Pete Yellin Jazz Quartet, Lady Bianca Blues, Kenny "Blue" Ray, Bluestate Band, Crooked Roads, Nell Robinson & Red Level, Grace Wood Trio, Beep Trio, Chad Manning & Friends, Joe Warner Trio, Natalie Cressman & Friends, Divasonics, and others to be announced.



Participating venues include Anna's Jazz Island, Beckett's of Berkeley, Berkeley Farmers' Market, Berkeley Central Public Library, the Downtown Berkeley BART station, Bobby G's Pizzeria, Brazil Café, Cal

Recreational Sports Facility (Caltopia), Downtown Restaurant, Half-Price Books, the Jazzschool, Jupiter, OneWorldWalk, the Roda Theatre, and the Downtown Starbucks.

“Four months ago, we started construction of our new home on Addison Street in the Downtown Arts District,” said Freight & Salvage Executive Director Steve Baker, “and we’re committed to the success and vitality of the Downtown Berkeley neighborhood. By producing the MusicFest, we hope to attract both new and old music fans to the area to sample a taste of the rich and exciting music and cultural activities available Downtown every day, year round.”

“We are elated to have this event in Downtown Berkeley,” said Katherine Scherbel, marketing manager of Downtown Berkeley Association. “We’re excited to show off the businesses and venues that make Downtown Berkeley unique.”

The Freight’s Annual Fiddle Summit, featuring **Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas, Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill**, and **Bruce Molsky**, highlights the Downtown Berkeley MusicFest’s opening night, Thursday, August 21. The performance takes place at 8 p.m. at Berkeley Repertory Theatre’s Roda Theatre at 2015 Addison Street.

Host **Alasdair Fraser’s** richly expressive playing encompasses the Gaelic tradition, classically styled airs, and raucous dance tunes, all delivered with flawless virtuosity. He performs with cellist **Natalie Haas**, a recent graduate of the Juilliard School who tours extensively with Fraser as well as his world-class fiddling peers, Mark O’Connor and Natalie MacMaster. Fraser and Haas showcase driving, dancing rhythms from their most recent duo album, *In the Moment*.

Irish fiddle virtuoso **Martin Hayes** and Chicago-born guitarist **Dennis Cahill** possess a rare musical kinship. The duo holds listeners spellbound with its slow-building, fiery performances, releasing the pure, lyrical beauty of traditional Irish music. **Bruce Molsky**, one of the most influential old-time fiddlers of his generation, melds the archaic mountain sounds of Appalachia with blues, Eastern European and African music.

Tickets for the Freight’s Annual Fiddle Summit are \$22.50 in advance and \$23.50 at the door, and are available at the Freight & Salvage box office at 1111 Addison Street (cash or check only) during all performances, and daily from 12 noon-7 pm. On the Web, visit www.freightandsalvage.org, or charge by phone at TicketWeb at 866-468-3399.

Many of the Downtown Berkeley MusicFest performances are free, including those at Beckett’s of Berkeley, Berkeley Farmers’ Market, Berkeley Central Public Library, Bobby G’s Pizzeria, the Downtown Berkeley BART station, Brazil Café, Cal Recreational Sports Facility, Downtown Restaurant, Half-Price Books, Jupiter, OneWorldWalk, and the Downtown Starbucks. A complete lineup and schedule is attached, and high-res images are available for download at www.downtownberkeleymusicfest.org/press/images.html. Ticket information is available through the individual venues or at the festival website at www.downtownberkeleymusicfest.org.

The festival’s final day, Sunday, August 24, coincides with Caltopia VI, the free “experiential college lifestyle festival” sponsored by University of California at the Recreational Sports Facility. As part of the Downtown Berkeley MusicFest, Caltopia will present a free outdoor music show in the afternoon. More information is available at www.caltopialive.com.

About Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse

Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, the longest-running full-time folk and roots music club west of the Mississippi River, is building its new, 18,000-square-foot green performance and teaching facility in Berkeley's Downtown Arts District. The nonprofit organization's [new home](#) at 2020 Addison Street, slated to open in 2009, will have a 440-seat listening room, double the capacity of its existing venue. The plans also include a music lounge seating 50 people, a state-of-the-art Meyer Sound system, a café, and six classrooms. [Freight & Salvage](#) celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

Its listening-room atmosphere, the quality and cultural diversity of the performances, and its broad audience make the Freight unique well beyond the Bay Area. Over the course of the last 40 years, the Freight has become world famous for its presentations of folk, Americana, bluegrass, Celtic, blues, jazz, and Hawaiian artists, and also offers a rich and diverse program of world music. Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Odetta, Alison Krauss, Taj Mahal, Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys, Shawn Colvin, David Grisman, Rev. Gary Davis, Mance Lipscomb, Malvina Reynolds, Nickel Creek, and the Persuasions have all performed at the Freight.

In 1983, the Freight formally organized as a nonprofit entity, the Berkeley Society for the Preservation of Traditional Music. In 1988, the Freight moved to its current facility at 1111 Addison Street. Seeing steadily growing audiences, a revitalized demand for folk and traditional music, and recognizing a need for educational programming, the Freight staff began making plans in 1999 to build a new home.

With help from the City of Berkeley and the Freight's friends and supporters, the nonprofit organization purchased the property at 2020 Addison in downtown Berkeley in 2000. Since then, the Freight has raised \$8.3 million of the \$11.3 million needed to build its new home. In July 2008, the Freight announced that an anonymous donor has offered a \$1 million challenge gift, to encourage the community to contribute the final \$2 million to finish the building. For more information, visit the Freight's website at <http://www.freightandsalvage.org>.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT: **First Annual Downtown Berkeley MusicFest**, including performances by more than 30 folk, jazz, blues, Celtic, r&b and roots music artists at more than a dozen venues throughout Berkeley's Downtown Arts District. Produced by Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, the festival's central event is the Annual Fiddle Summit with Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, Martin Hayes & Dennis Cahill, and Bruce Molsky at the Roda Theatre August 21. Other performers include Big Money in Jazz, Lady Bianca, Pete Yellin Jazz Quartet, Wake the Dead, Junius Courtney Big Band featuring Denise Perrier, Crooked Roads, Bluestate Band, Amendola vs. Blades, Nell Robinson & Red Level, Malachi Whitson Trio, The Pork Pies, Divasonics, Steven Emerson Band, Curtis Bumpy, Joe Warner Trio, and Natalie Cressman & Friends.

WHEN: Thursday, August 21 through Sunday, August 24, 2008

WHERE: Various venues throughout Berkeley's Downtown Arts District, including Anna's Jazz Island, Beckett's of Berkeley, Berkeley Farmers' Market, Berkeley Central Public Library, Bobby G's Pizzeria, Downtown Berkeley BART station, Cal Recreational Sports Facility, Downtown Restaurant, Half-Price Books, Jupiter, the JazzSchool, One World Walk, the Roda Theatre and Downtown Starbucks.

HOW MUCH: Prices vary; many events are free. Contact individual venues for ticket information, visit www.downtownberkeleymusicfest.org, or call 510-548-1761 for more info.

WHAT: **Freight & Salvage Annual Fiddle Summit** with Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas, Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill, and Bruce Molsky.

Fiddle Summit host **Alasdair Fraser's** richly expressive playing encompasses laments drawn from the Gaelic tradition to classically styled airs and raucous dance tunes, all delivered with flawless virtuosity. He performs with cellist **Natalie Haas**, a recent graduate of the Juilliard School who tours extensively with Fraser as well as his world-class fiddling peers, Mark O'Connor and Natalie MacMaster. Fraser and Haas showcase driving, dancing rhythms from their most recent duo album, *In the Moment*.

Irish fiddle virtuoso **Martin Hayes** and Chicago-born guitarist **Dennis Cahill** possess a rare musical kinship, holding listeners spellbound with the pure, lyrical beauty of traditional Irish music. Hayes describes their duo playing as "a three-way conversation between the two of us and the music."

One of the most influential old-time fiddlers of his generation, Bronx-born **Bruce Molsky's** high-spirited playing melds the archaic mountain sounds of Appalachia with the blues, Eastern European, and traditional African music.

WHEN: Thursday, August 21 at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison Street, Berkeley, California

HOW MUCH: \$22.50 advance/\$23.50 at the door. Tickets available at the Freight & Salvage box office at 1111 Addison Street (cash or check only) during all performances, and daily from 12 noon-7 pm. On the Web, visit www.freightandsalvage.org, or charge by phone at TicketWeb at 866-468-3399.

FOR MORE INFO: Visit <http://www.freightandsalvage.org/> or call 510-548-1761.

**DOWNTOWN BERKELEY MUSIC FEST
SCHEDULE
Thursday, August 21-Saturday, August 24, 2008**

Thursday, August 21			
Artist	Venue	Time	Price
Amendola vs. Blades	Downtown BART Station	12 noon-1 p.m.	Free
Cross-cultural music events	OneWorldWalk	12:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.	Free
Big Money in Jazz	Anna's Jazz Island	8 p.m.	\$12
Freight & Salvage Annual Fiddle Summit w/ Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, Martin Hayes & Dennis Cahill, Bruce Molsky	Freight & Salvage @ Roda Theatre	8 p.m.	\$22.50 advance/\$23.50 door
Divasonics, Dietsnaks	Jupiter	8 p.m.	Free
Crooked Roads	Bobby G's Pizzeria	8:30 p.m.-11 p.m.	Free
Courtney Nicole Trio	Beckett's of Berkeley	10 p.m.	Free
Friday, August 22			
Nell Robinson & Red Level	Downtown BART Station	12 noon-1 p.m.	Free
Cross-cultural music events	OneWorldWalk	12:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.	Free
Beep Trio	Jupiter	5 p.m.	Free
Steven Emerson Band	Jupiter	8 p.m.	Free
Dee Spencer's Jook Joint Jazz	Anna's Jazz Island	8 p.m.	\$14
Joe Warner Trio	The Jazzschool	8 p.m.	\$10
Bluestate Band	Bobby G's Pizzeria	8:30 p.m.-11 p.m.	Free
The Mundaze	Beckett's of Berkeley	10 p.m.	Free
The Maya Kronfeld Trio	Downtown Restaurant	10 p.m.	Free
Saturday, August 23			
The Pork Pies	Berkeley Farmers' Market	10 a.m.-noon	Free
Live music and capoeira	Brazil Café	11 a.m.-6 p.m.	Free
Cross-cultural music events	OneWorldWalk	12 noon-9 p.m.; performances begin on the hour	Free

Artist	Venue	Time	Price
Saturday, August 23 (cont.)			
A Taste of Soul Poetry with Dale & Dan Zola	Berkeley Farmers' Market	12:30 p.m.-1 p.m.	Free
Wake the Dead	Berkeley Farmers' Market	1 p.m.-3 p.m.	Free
Grace Woods Trio	Downtown Starbucks	2 p.m.-4 p.m.	Free
21 Flights	The Jazzschool	4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	\$10
CV Dub w/ DJ Delon	Jupiter	5 p.m.	Free
Curtis Bumpy	Jupiter	8 p.m.	Free
Lady Bianca Blues	Anna's Jazz Island	8 p.m.	\$14
Junius Courtney Big Band featuring Denise Perrier	Berkeley Central Public Library	8 p.m.	Free
Malachi Whitson Trio	The Jazzschool	8 p.m.	\$10
David Mathews Soultet featuring Santana vocalist Tony Lindsay	Downtown Restaurant	8 p.m.-10 p.m.	Free
Kenny "Blue" Ray	Bobby G's Pizzeria	8:30 p.m.	Free
O-SHEN	Beckett's of Berkeley	10 p.m.	Free
Sunday, August 24			
Outdoor show	Cal Recreational Sports Facility/Caltopia	Afternoon; time TBD	Free
Cross-cultural music events	OneWorldWalk	12 noon-9 p.m.; performances begin on the hour	Free
Karl Tingwald Quintet	The Jazzschool	4:30 p.m.	\$10
Chad Manning & Friends	Jupiter	5 p.m.	Free
Natalie Cressman & Friends	The Jazzschool	8 p.m.	\$10
Pete Yellin Jazz Quartet	Anna's Jazz Island	8 p.m.	\$12
eBlues	Bobby G's Pizzeria	8:30 p.m.-11 p.m.	Free
Benyaro	Beckett's of Berkeley	10 p.m.	Free

VENUE LIST

Anna's Jazz Island, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley www.annasjazzisland.com 510-841-JAZZ

Beckett's of Berkeley, 2271 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley www.beckettsirishpub.com 510-647-1790

Berkeley Central Public Library, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org 510-981-6100

Berkeley Farmers' Market, Center Street at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley www.ecologycenter.org/bfm 510-548-3333
Bobby G's Pizzeria, 2072 University Avenue, Berkeley www.bobbygspizzeria.com 510-665-8866
Brazil Café, 1983 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-845-1056
Caltopia at Cal Recreational Sports Facility, 2301 Bancroft, Berkeley www.caltopialive.com
Downtown Berkeley BART Station, 2160 Shattuck Avenue at Center St., Berkeley
Downtown Restaurant, 2102 Shattuck Ave. www.downtownrestaurant.com 510-649-3810
Half-Price Books, 2036 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley www.halfpricebooks.com 510-526-6080
The Jazzschool, 2087 Addison St., Berkeley www.jazzschool.com 510-845-5373
Jupiter, 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley www.jupiterbeer.com 510-843-8277
OneWorldWalk, 1919 Addison St./1942 University Ave., Berkeley www.oneworldwalk.org 510-540-8136
The Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley www.freightandsalvage.org 510-548-1761
Downtown Starbucks, 2224 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-6806