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Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse Expands its Educational Offerings with Fiddlekids, a Traditional Music Day Camp for Young Musicians

BERKELEY, Calif., April 1, 2008 – [Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse](#), the longest-established full-time folk and traditional music venue west of the Mississippi River, this summer will present [fiddlekids](#), the summer day camp for young musicians devoted to traditional fiddle music. The camp, held in El Cerrito from June 23-27, 2008, is for young violinists between the ages of seven to 13 who have been playing for at least one year.

[Fiddlekids](#), now in its 11th year, is devoted to teaching Appalachian, Celtic, jazz, klezmer, bluegrass, and other traditional fiddle styles. Children learn in small groups, with an emphasis on ear training. The kids learn songs and performance techniques and also explore the music through dance and art. An experienced staff of teachers introduces the young musicians to music theory, basic composition, harmony, and improvisation in a fun, practical manner.

Fiddlekids is part of the Freight's long-standing goal to expand its education programs. The Freight's new home, currently under construction in Berkeley's Downtown Arts District, will house six classrooms and offer music workshops and classes. The Freight also plans to offer daytime workshops and performances for schoolchildren in the new building.

Fiddlekids day camp runs from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, June 23 through Friday, June 27, 2008. On Friday, the final day of camp, the students will perform in concert at 5:30 p.m., followed by a reception. The Freight will also host a post-camp show on Sunday, June 29 at Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, featuring the four fiddle instructors, the dance instructor, and special guests, including some children from camp.

Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse is presenting [fiddlekids](#) in collaboration with the camp's founder and director, Bobbi Shearn Nikles. A sought-after teacher and musician who performs Appalachian, Celtic, and jazz fiddle music, Nikles also performs with Wake the Dead, Douce Ambiance, and at contradances.

Other fiddlekids instructors include:

- [Laura Risk](#), a fiddle player whose specialties include Quebecois tunes from her new home in Montreal, Scottish, Irish, and Cape Breton fiddle music. She has toured and taught for many years throughout North America.
- Julian Smedley, who plays swing-jazz fiddle and has performed with Ralph Towner, Art Lande, and Dan Hicks. He currently performs with the Hot Clubs of San Francisco and Berkeley, Mike Wollenberg, and Magnetic Poets.
- Julie Egger, a klezmer violinist who has played and performed classical, jazz, and liturgical music. She currently performs with [The Red Hot Chachkas](#) and Fogbow Trio. She is a founder of KlezCalifornia and received an Artist Grant from Marin Arts Council in 2003.
- Evie Ladin grew up with traditional music and dance, clogging and playing clawhammer banjo at East Coast music festivals. She will teach dance at fiddlekids. She was a touring musician for 10 years and now teaches banjo and percussive dance in the Bay Area. She is a dancer, musician, and vocalist with husband Keith Terry and the world music ensemble Crosspulse, and the all-gal old-time band [The Stairwell Sisters](#).
- Marlene Friedman Walters, fiddlekids' art teacher, is a jewelry designer and painter with experience in graphic and textile design, photography, and illustration.

The camp is held at Tehiyah Day School, at 2603 Tassajara Avenue in El Cerrito. Tuition is \$475, which includes a \$100 materials fee to cover a fiddlekids t-shirt, a CD of camp tunes, and healthy daily snacks.

To enroll or to get more information, please call Freight & Salvage at 510-848-2112, email fiddlekids@freightandsalvage.org, or visit the fiddlekids website at www.fiddlekids.com.

About Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse

Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse has just begun 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 early 2009, will have a 440-seat listening room, double the capacity of its existing venue. The plans also include an additional performance space seating 60-70 people, a state-of-the-art sound system, a café, and six classrooms. [Freight & Salvage](#) celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

For more information, visit the Freight's website at <http://www.freightandsalvage.org>.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT: fiddlekids, a traditional fiddle music day camp, incorporating music, dance, and art, for musicians aged seven to 13. Students are introduced to Appalachian, Celtic, jazz, klezmer, bluegrass and other traditional fiddle styles, as well as basics of music theory, basic composition, harmony, and improvisation. Students must have at least one year experience playing the fiddle or violin.

WHEN: Monday, June 23-Friday, June 27, 2008, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., with a special student performance at 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 27

WHERE: Tehiyah Day School, 2603 Tassajara Avenue, El Cerrito, California

HOW MUCH: \$475 tuition fee covers a \$100 materials fee for a fiddlekids t-shirt, a CD of camp tunes, and healthy snacks

TO REGISTER: Visit www.fiddlekids.com, email fiddlekids@freightandsalvage.org, or call 510-848-2112

WHAT: fiddlekids traditional fiddle music day camp instructors, students, and special guests perform in concert

WHEN: Sunday, June 29 at 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 1111 Addison St., Berkeley

TICKETS: \$18.50 advance/\$19.50 at the door. Tickets available through Freight & Salvage box office daily from 12 noon to 7 p.m. and during all performances; at www.freightandsalvage.org; through TicketWeb at 866-468-3399; and by mail order (send check and self-addressed, stamped envelope at least 10 days before the show date)

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