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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Big summer fun with a small budget: These are the best free events in the Bay Area

Anne Schragger

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Jennifer Horsby, Alysia Beltran, and Justine Mercadal of the Karikitan Dance company wave to a friend before the Annual Pistahan Parade and Festival.

Michael Noble Jr./The Chronicle

Seeking big fun with a small budget? There are many free upcoming festivals, live music events and activities to enjoy locally that won't break the bank. And if you are a lover of the great outdoors, [Marin County Parks](#) recently announced that all their parks and nature preserves are now admission free, including parking.

See The Chronicle's guide to the best free Bay Area events happening July through August:

Bastille on Belden

Celebrate Bastille Day and honor San Francisco's French history and cuisine. Attendees can expect live French music, complimentary berets and French-themed foods and promotions from Belden Place establishments including Sam's Grill, Cafe Tiramisu, and Cafe Bastille.

4:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, July 14. Free admission. Belden Place, S.F. downtownsf.org



Chris (right) and Lorin Rowan and special guests play every Friday at The Trident in Sausalito.
Rashad Sisemore/The Chronicle

Aloha Friday with the Rowan Brothers

Singer-songwriters and guitarists Chris and Lorin Rowan present a weekly acoustic music series at the venerable, North Bay waterfront venue. Boasting deep musical roots, the programming often features local musical luminaries.

5-8 p.m. Fridays. Free admission. The Trident, 558 Bridgeway, Sausalito. 415-331-3232. thetrident.net

Pt. Richmond Music Series

Live outdoor concerts are held on the second Friday of the month. Upcoming performances include Blü Egyptian and Barrio Manouche on July 14.

5:30-7:45 p.m. Friday, July 14, Aug. 11, and Sept. 8. Free. Park Place and Washington Ave., Pt. Richmond. pointrichmondmusic.org

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The best Bay Area events for kids and families to enjoy in July and August

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Pleasant Hill Blues and Brews Festival

This family-friendly event offers live music, food, drinks and craft vendors, a kids zone and craft brew tasting. On schedule for July 14 is a Tom Petty tribute band. The music lineup on July 15 includes the Jr. DeVille Blues Band, Daniel Castro and Top Shelf.

6-9 p.m. Friday, July 14; 3-9 p.m. Saturday, July 15. Free admission; beer tasting tickets are \$65-\$85. 147 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. bluesandbrewsfestival.com



View fine art as you listen to a live performance on the historic Spreckels organ at the Legion of Honor.
FAMSF/Legion of Honor

Music and Art in the Rodin Gallery

View fine art as you listen to a live organ concert. Upcoming programming includes “Rodin’s France: The Sounds of an Epoque,” with organist Joy-Leilani Garbutt on July 15 and 22, and “The Tudors: Stillness and Dance in the 16th Century,” with principal organist Jonathan Dimmock, on July 29 and Aug. 5.

4 p.m. Saturday, July 15, 22, 29 and Aug. 5. Free for Bay Area residents, reservations recommended. Legion of Honor Museum, S.F. 415-750-7694. famsf.org

Kim Anno: ‘Signs’ and ‘Queering Chinese Opera’

The artist/filmmaker offers a site-specific video installation piece with live performance elements. Two evening events scheduled include a micro-opera with adaptations of poetry by Sappho created by Anno and composer Anne Hege on July 15. The second includes a food-focused piece by Gao Ling titled “Curve Restaurant,” followed by traditional Chinese opera with a modern, feminist perspective from Zijing Han and Xiangqi Chen.

Opening reception and performance 8 p.m. Saturday, July 15; Second performance 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 1. Exhibition viewable from 8-9:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, July 15-Aug. 12. Free. Dream Farm Commons, 349 15th St., Oakland. dreamfarmcommons.com



Artist/filmmaker Kim Anno offers a site-specific video installation exhibition featuring live performance elements at Dream Farm Commons in Oakland through Aug. 12.
Dream Farm Commons

Redwood City Music in the Park

Free weekly outdoor concerts are presented on Wednesday evenings through late summer. Upcoming shows include the [Traveling Wilburys Revue](#) on July 19, [Steve Lucky & the Rhumba Bums](#) on July 26, [Andre Thierry](#) on Aug. 2 and others. Food and drinks available. Proceeds benefit Redwood City Schools Save the Music program.

6-8 p.m. Wednesdays. Through Aug. 20. Free. Stafford Park, King St. and Hopkins Ave., Redwood City. redwoodcity.org

Thirsty Third Thursday Summer Series

A free, family-friendly event with local craft brewers, live bluegrass music presented by [Bread & Roses](#) and complimentary root beer floats for children. July 20 will feature [Pond Farm Brewing](#) and music from the Hydra-matic Drive Bluegrass Band. [Headlands Brewing](#) and Festival Speed Bluegrass are scheduled for Aug. 17.

5-7 p.m. July 20; Aug. 17. Free. Bon Air Center, 50 Bon Air Center, Greenbrae. 415-461-0200. bonair.com/events

Shenson Faculty Concert Series

Attend a concert sponsored by the Shenson Foundation featuring S.F. Community Music Center faculty. Upcoming performances include a program focused on women composers with violinist Dorisiya Yosifova on [July 20](#), “The Neo-Creolism of Peruvian Music” with pianist Erick Peralta on [Aug. 3](#) and “Civil Wrongs: Music about Black American and Japanese American Incarceration” with pianist/composer Jon Jang on [Aug. 10](#).

7 p.m. Sunday. July 20, Aug. 3 and 10. Free, reservations recommended. Sha’ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., S.F. 415-647-6015. sfcmc.org



Moonalice performs on the Swan Stage with the Tietjen Sisters during the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival 2019 at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.
Carlos Avila Gonzalez/The Chronicle

Concert on the Green: Moonalice

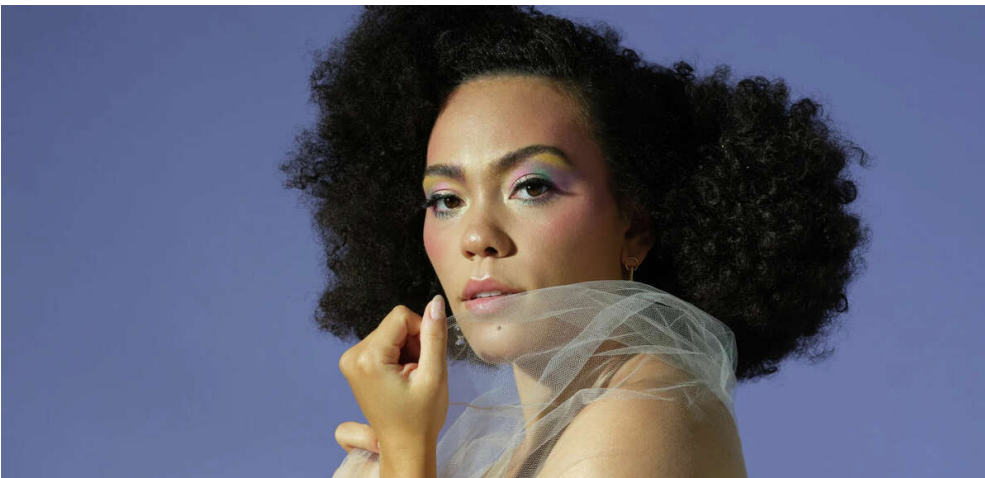
The all-star band featuring Barry Sless, Pete Sears, members of the T-Sisters and others will perform a free, outdoor concert on the lawn in downtown Novato.

6-8 p.m. July 21. Free. Novato Civic Green, 901 Sherman Ave., Novato. 415-899-8900. novato.org/events

Montalvo Summer Exhibition Opening Festival

This year's summer "[Art on the Grounds](#)" exhibition, "Take Time," will offer artworks from Carole Kim, Akiko Yamashita, Inez Storer and Corinne Okada set throughout the art center's outdoor gardens and indoor gallery spaces. The opening celebration is scheduled to include live DJ sets, performances, vendors, local creators and more.

7-10 p.m. Friday, July 21. Free, reservations recommended. Montalvo Arts Center, 15400 Montalvo Road, Saratoga. 408-961-5800 montalvoarts.org



Vocalist Madison McFerrin will perform as part of Berkeley's Front Row Festival on July 22.
Front Row Festival/Justin French

Front Row Arts Festival

The outdoor festival produced by joint efforts from the Downtown Berkeley Association and Berkeley arts organizations will feature live entertainment on two stages, with food trucks, vendors, community booths and family-friendly activities throughout. Scheduled performers include Soul Mechanix with Juan Escovedo, Madison McFerrin, Darby Gould, Sam Rudin and John Schott, Mark Clark Quintet, Berkeley Rep Improv Group, the Berkeley Symphony Quintet and others.

11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, July 22. Free. Shattuck Ave. and Berkeley Plaza, Downtown Berkeley. 510-549-2230. downtownberkeley.com

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp: Points of View

Patricia West directs AileyCamp youth dancers and instructors in a showcase performance featuring professional staging, lights, costumes and live music.

7 p.m. Thursday, July 27. Free, reservations required. Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way at Dana St., UC Berkeley. 510-642-4630. calperformances.org/aileycamp.



Students from a previous AileyCamp youth dance program perform in Zellerbach Hall.
Cal Performances

Downtown Alameda Art & Wine Faire

Take in the summer sun and island breezes at a street festival with more than 200 vendors, foods, local wine and beer, live music on three stages and a kids' zone with carnival rides. Performers scheduled include Aja Vu, Petty Theft, Savannah Blugrass and others.

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, July 29-30. Free admission. Park St., between Central Ave. and Clement, Alameda. 510- 523-1392. downtownalameda.com

Nihonmachi Street Fair: Aloha by the Bay

Embrace the aloha spirit with an afternoon featuring live, local and Hawaii-based music and dance with performances from Halau Kaiaulu and Hau'oli Hula Hui, Faith Ako and others. Cultural activities will be offered, and culinary artists including chef Sam Choy will be in attendance.

11 a.m.-5 p.m. July 29. Free. Peace Plaza, 1581 Webster St., S.F. 415-771-9861. nihonmachistreetfair.org

Fern Alley Music Series: Radio Veloso

Support small business and the [Polk Corridor Community](#) while enjoying live music, craft vendors, local eats and more. Other performances scheduled include the John Courage Trio on Aug. 12.

Noon-4 p.m. Saturday, July 29. Free, reservations [recommended](#). Fern Alley, Polk and Larkin St., S.F. 415-816-6207. [musiccitysf.com](#)



Shannon Shaw and Cody Blanchard of Shannon and the Clams during Noise Pop Festival at Fox Theater in Oakland in 2017.
Scott Strazzante/The Chronicle

SF Parks Alliance and Noise Pop: Due South Concert Series

A diverse series of live music performances is set to kick off on July 29 with Shannon and the Clams, then continuing Aug. 26 with indie-pop band Cherry Glazerr, rock duo Momma and King Isis. On Sept. 16, Latin indie-alternative artists Y La Bamba and Marinero with Loco Bloco take the stage. Closing the season, on Oct. 7, will be Sheila E and the E-Train.

2:30-6 p.m. Saturday, July 29, Aug. 26, Sept. 26 and Oct. 7. Free, reservations [recommended](#); VIP tickets available. Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, McLaren Park, 100 John F Shelley Dr., S.F. [noisepop.com](#)

Vine Street Block Party

The family-friendly street festival in downtown Berkeley is set to include wine pouring stations, food and retail vendors, live music and more.

Noon-6 p.m. Sunday, July 30. Free. Vine St., between Shattuck and Walnut, Berkeley. 510-540-6444. [northshattuckassociation.org](#)

Napa Porchfest

Bike, walk, skateboard, skip or dance from porch to porch and check out a wide variety of live music from the downtown Napa neighborhood around Fuller Park. Have a listen to some of the bands scheduled to perform [online](#).

12:30-5 p.m. Sunday, July 30. Free. In and around Fuller Park, Jefferson St. at Oak, Napa. 707-255-1836. [napaporchfest.org](#)



Visitors walk by the main stage at the annual Up Your Alley leather and fetish fair in San Francisco in 2022.
Brontë Wittpenn/The Chronicle

Up Your Alley Fair: Leather and Kink Block Party

Leather rules the streets once again, so show up in your favorite leather or rubber for a kink/alt/leather kickoff to “Leather Pride” season which culminates with the more well-known Folsom Street Fair. Live onstage entertainment is set to include DJ sets, gogo dancers, bondage and kink performers, plus the infamous Steamworks twister stage.

11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, July 30. Free admission. Dore Alley, 9th and Folsom Streets, S.F. folsomstreet.org

Music at the Mart

Stock up on farmer’s market fare while the little ones enjoy craft activities and live kids entertainment — each week from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

After the children’s programming, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m, the market stage hosts live, local music including [Dore Coller’s Bermudagrass Trio](#) on July 22 and [Kurt Huget/Peter Penhallow](#) duo on July 29.

9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Free. Marin Country Mart, 2257 Larkspur Landing Circle, Larkspur. 415-448-5043. marincountrymart.com

Jerry Day

Celebrate all things Jerry Garcia and the Grateful Dead at a family-friendly day in the park featuring vendors, food trucks, and lots of live music from Stu Allen & Mars Hotel, Melvin Seals & JGB and Box Set.

11:30 a.m.-5:45 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5. Free. Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, McLaren Park, S.F. jerryday.org

Arias in the Afternoon

An afternoon classical music performance is set to feature vocalists from the San Francisco Opera with piano accompaniment.

2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6. Free lawn seating; VIP ticket options available. Gabrielson Park, Humboldt Ave. and Anchor St., Sausalito. 415-289-4152. sausalito.gov



Sophia Sayon, 11, waves streamers while marching in the Pistahan parade with the Kidz Groove group to the festival celebrating Filipino culture at Yerba Buena Gardens in San Francisco in 2019.
Paul Chinn/The Chronicle

30th Annual Pistahan Parade and Festival

A parade marks the start of the largest Filipino fair on the West Coast, with hands-on cultural arts and crafts and exhibitions; arts, culinary, dance, health, heritage, innovation, sports and tavern pavilions hosting different activities from folk dance group showcases to live entertainment from emerging and established artists.

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 12-13. Free. Esplanade, Yerba Buena Gardens, Mission Street between Third and Fourth streets, S.F. 415-625-3976. pistahan.net

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