

# Music day to serve up many styles

**BY ANGELA SWARTZ**  
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The city of Palo Alto will close down University Avenue between Webster and High streets this Father's Day, but it won't be in celebration of dad.

The city has declared June 16 as Palo Alto World Music Day this year with festivities taking place from 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The fifth annual event is free and will feature 50 professional and amateur groups playing jazz, blues, classical, pop, rock and dance music.

Claude Ezran, vice president of marketing at Matisse Software in Mountain View, founded the event in 2008. The French-born Ezran has lived in the U.S. for 30 years, but picked up the idea after seeing music days in Paris and London.

"It's a good fit for Palo Alto," Ezran said. "I like that you walk down the street and never know what you're going to discover; there's an element of surprise."

A global event, World Music Day officially takes place on June 21. It more generally occurs around the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year.



**GETTING MUSICAL** — On June 16, Palo Alto celebrates its fifth annual World Music Day, which brings a variety of music to the downtown.

Ezran chose June 16 since he felt that Sunday was the most ideal day for attracting a huge audience.

Sponsors include the Chinese language media group "News for Chinese." Jean and Brian Ho lead the organization, which consists of a newspaper, radio program and website.

Jean recounted her own experiences at the first Palo Alto World Music Day, playing a guzheng, a traditional Chi-

nese stringed instrument. "I got my instructor and couple of other students to put together a little program," she said. "We attracted quite a little crowd at the corner where the visitors can pick up a copy of our paper for free and listen to a taste of Chinese folk music."

The Palo Alto Downtown Business and Professional Association also sponsors the event.

"World Music Day brings thousands

of visitors to downtown each year," said Russ Cohen, the group's executive director. "It is a wonderful opportunity to show off our downtown to those who have never been here and remind those who are returning just how great an experience it is."

Eric Kujawsky directs the Redwood Symphony and is bringing his group to the event this year.

"This will be a rare opportunity to truly be street musicians," Kujawsky said. "This means that there may be some improvisation and interplay with the audience, as well as attempts to make up for any missing instruments. We have to bring our own stands and chairs (everyone but the cellos will probably stand up!), so there will probably be a bit of an impromptu feeling to the whole affair."

Dr. Lisa S. Chu's Chinese Melodrama will be performing as well. This is the group's third time at the festival.

"I love that downtown Palo Alto feels like a European town square for the day," Chu said. "People wandering around, stopping to hear such a diverse group of musical acts."