

# Worth a Look

Bolivia Corazón de América will perform as part of the Peninsula International Dance Festival.



Courtesy RJ Muna

## Peninsula International Dance Festival

Over 200 dancers representing 13 nationalities will take to the stage at this year's second Peninsula International Dance Festival. The two-day festival is set to highlight a diverse array of local dance and music artists and ensembles, including Amor do Samba, Bolivia Corazón de América, Chitresh Das Institute, Eddie Madril, Feng Ye Dance, Peru Expressions, Theatre Flamenco and more. Organized by the Peninsula Ballet Theater and designed by the company's Artistic Director Gregory Amato, the festival's lineup has also been hand-picked with the consultation of local dancers Zenon Barron, Carlos Carvajal and Charlotte Moraga. This festival will bring a colorful display of sacred, social and secular dances to the San Mateo Performing Arts Center.

July 15 at 7 p.m. and July 16 at 3 p.m. at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 600 N. Delaware St., San Mateo. Tickets are \$35-\$60. [pidfca.org](http://pidfca.org). (AJ)

## Bravemaker Film Festival

The Bravemaker Film Festival celebrates films that share stories of justice, diversity and inclusion. Now marking its fifth anniversary, the Redwood City-based festival has, in just a handful of years, steadily grown. Bravemaker will present 62 films over four days at several Redwood City venues, highlighting feature films and shorts, as well as thoughtful panel discussions after screenings, and workshops, conversations and parties with film industry professionals. Though the festival is fully in-person this year, it also offers some select films that audiences can watch at home.

July 13-16 at various venues in downtown Redwood City. Most events are \$10-\$25; festival passes start at \$125. [bravemaker.com](http://bravemaker.com). (HZ)

## Music@Menlo

What makes the music of Beethoven so great? Music@Menlo offers a chance to find out, taking a deep dive into his music through three weeks of up-close concerts, master classes, workshops and conversations. "Beethoven Unfolding" is the theme of the 21st annual chamber music festival which runs July 14-Aug. 5 at Menlo School in Atherton and features top musical talents, as well as up-and-coming young musicians. Audiences can enjoy programs celebrating Beethoven's music, as well as that of the composers who influenced him, and those he influenced. Music@Menlo offers both in-person and streaming options for enjoying a number of the concerts and events.

July 14-Aug. 5 at Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. Some programs are already sold out. For ticket availability and more information, visit [musicatmenlo.org](http://musicatmenlo.org). (HZ)

## Scary Goldings

Their name may invoke shades of Halloween, but Scary Goldings' sound pops with irrepressible summer grooves. The group teams up two powerhouses: the rotating funk band Scary Pockets, led by guitarist Ryan Lerman and multi-instrumentalist Jack Conte, with Grammy-nominated organist Larry Goldings. The ensemble brings its '60s retro jazz and funk to The Guild on July 14. Goldings' fleet-fingered way with the keys melds seamlessly with the Pockets' bluesy, rock-edged guitar and dynamic percussion, smoothed at the edges by further keyboard instruments. Scary Goldings has released four albums since they joined forces in 2018, and they released their new single, "Louis Cole Sucks," last week. The single features legendary guitarist John Scofield, with whom the group has previously collaborated.

July 14, 8 p.m. at The Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Tickets are \$31 (\$59 mezzanine seating has a waitlist). [guildtheatre.com](http://guildtheatre.com) (HZ).

## Mountain View Obon Festival

For the first time since 2019, the Mountain View Buddhist Temple hosts a public Obon festival. The festival remembers loved ones who have passed on with a joyous celebration that includes Taiko drumming and other music, Japanese folk dancing, as well as food and games. This popular Mountain View festival also includes cultural exhibits, tours of the temple, bingo and children's activities.

July 15, 4-10 p.m. and July 16, noon-8 p.m. at Mountain View Buddhist Temple, 575 N. Shoreline Blvd., [MountainView.obon.mvbuddhisttemple.org](http://MountainView.obon.mvbuddhisttemple.org). (HZ) ■

— Briefs by Akhil Joondeph and Heather Zimmerman

## Cultivating craft and community

Palo Alto Clay and Glass Festival celebrates 30 years

By Akhil Joondeph

For 30 years, local artists and art lovers have flocked to the Palo Alto Art Center every summer for one of the Peninsula's most treasured displays of pottery, sculpture and glass arts. This year's 30th edition of the Clay and Glass Festival promises to carry this tradition forward, cultivating support for talented local creatives and building community between artists and connoisseurs.

This year's festival, taking place July 15-16, will bring over 100 artists to the Art Center to sell their work.

"The festival will feature artists who enjoy both functional and decorative fine art, from the abstract to the figurative, and from the minimalist to the whimsical" Mari Emori, Association of Clay and Glass Artists of California president, said.

The event also will feature interactive demonstrations, where visitors can watch the festival's artists at work and even try out some pottery-making and sculpting techniques themselves.

In 1993, the ACGA under the recommendation of longtime festival supporter and then-Art Center employee Diane Master brought the festival to Palo Alto, after renovations to Golden Gate Park pushed it out of San Francisco.

"I very casually said to a potter whose booth I was standing at, 'Why don't you bring it ... to Palo Alto?'" Master said. "She called me a couple of nights later and said, 'Well, how would you like to bring it down to Palo Alto?' I went to the director of the art center and said, 'What do you think about having this clay and glass festival on the premises?'" He said that was fine, and so that was the beginning of it all."

Since then, the festival has become an annual tradition, bringing together a wide variety of artists and customers and creating a unique community of creatives and their supporters.

"There are people who don't miss this," Master said. "There are customers who have been coming for 30 years and have established their own relationships with the artists whose work they really follow. And so every year it's like a big reunion."

For artists, these close relationships with customers and connoisseurs are special and invaluable.

"I love seeing customers who come to this thing annually and check in with us," artist and longtime festival participant Jan Schachter said. "You get to know them a little bit more. A lot of them I stay in touch with during the year when I have my own studio sale because I live not too far away."

Additionally, Schachter also emphasized the close relationships between the many artists that have



Courtesy the artist

The festival includes an array of both functional and decorative glass and ceramics, including sculptures such as this one by Mari Emori.

been a part of the festival for many years, and the warm community that these relationships have fostered.

"The artists that are participating obviously love to be part of it and to see artists from all over the state of California," Schachter said. "We may not see each other the whole year, so it's a great opportunity for us to gather. We always have a little artists party Saturday night, and we get to eat and drink together for a couple of hours and that's just a real treat."

Emori, an artist herself who has participated in the festival since 2018, also emphasized the welcoming nature of the festival community, crediting the support that the festival receives from its Bay Area audience to the diverse and highly skilled cast of artists that has populated the festival for the past three decades.

"If you've been there before, you could tell we are different from any other city art fair because of our high quality of artwork," Emori said. "So I think that these people love to come back and then shop from us and support artists who produce something very special and unique that speaks to them. When an artist makes a piece, they put their heart and mind into it. That piece is a unique creation and takes on its own persona. People come to our festival to find those unique pieces that speak to them. That is the value of handmade art." ■

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The 30th annual Palo Alto Clay and Glass Festival takes place July 15-16, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Admission is free. [acga.net/clay-and-glass-festival](http://acga.net/clay-and-glass-festival).