

## For Immediate Release

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## Music For Every Taste Flows Freely at First Night Monterey

First Night Monterey 2012, the community-wide New Year's Eve celebration of the arts, which takes place for the 19<sup>th</sup> year in historic Monterey on Saturday, December 31, presents a smorgasbord of sounds and styles certain to please music lovers of every stripe. A small sample of some of the Celebration's music high notes includes:

**Folk:** First Night favorites the **Black Irish Band** return again to this New Year's Eve to bring a wee bit of the Celtic tone to the Celebration. Playing shanties and ballads and instrumentals certain to delight and get the blood flowing and the feet a tapping, the Black Irish Band plays four shows, on the hour at 7, 8, 9 and 10 pm in the Serra Ballroom of the Monterey Conference Center.

**Choral:** The refined voices of **I Cantori di Carmel**, another long-time First Night favorite will rise in perfect pitch as they enchant the crowd with their broad repertoire of songs spanning the baroque, classical and modern periods. I Cantori will perform three concerts at Carleton Hall in the Monterey Center for Spiritual Living (at the corner of Pacific and Franklin) at 6:30, 7:15 and 8 pm.

**Blues:** Crowd favorite and this year's master of ceremonies at the Finale ushering in the new year at the stroke of midnight will be local legendary bluesman **John Broadway Tucker**. The Finale kicks off at 11:15 in the Serra Ballroom at the Conference Center and in addition to John Broadway Tucker, **the Sambahemians** and **the Junkman** will get the crowd moving and the New Year started off on a spectacularly high note. John Broadway Tucker will also perform two earlier sets in the Serra Ballroom at 9 and 10 pm.

**Hip Hop:** Monterey Peninsula's own **MC Lars** takes a break from touring and recording to once again hang out with the hometown crowd at First Night Monterey. Acclaimed internationally as a bright star with a fresh take on hip hop, MC Lars will be breaking it down on the street in front of Rabobank – First Night site #13 – for two shows at 8:30 and 9:30 pm.

**Classical:** A subset of the orchestra, the **Monterey Symphony Brass Quintet**, leaves the strings behind and lets the horns do the music making. They are certain to once again impress classical music fans at First Night as they play a collection of numbers from the last five centuries at two afternoon performances: 3:30 and 4:30 pm in Carleton hall at the Monterey Center for Spiritual Living (on the corner of Pacific and Franklin).

**Junk Jam:** While all of the performers at First Night Monterey are unique artists pursuing their individual vision of the arts, Donald Knaack -- aka **the Junkman** -- still stands out in this eclectic crowd. This year's commissioned artist, the Junkman, is an Emmy-nominated

percussionist, composer and educator who builds instruments entirely from recycled materials and found objects and then invites the crowd to help him bring beautiful beats forth from this “junk” in the ensemble concerts he calls Junk Jams. The Junkman will be building his instruments with community involvement here in Monterey and then will host 5 Junk Jams over the course of First Night. As the Junkman says, “Everyone has a heartbeat and that means everyone can find a rhythm. The junk jams have this amazing effect of bringing a community together through music in celebration.”

Junk jams will take place on the lawn in front of Colton Hall (First Night Site #3) at 3:15, 4 and 4:45 pm and then will relocate to Alvarado Street for evening performances at 7:45 and 9:15 pm in front of the Golden State Theater (First Night Site #14). Come join the jam!