

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Ellen Martin, Executive Director

Phone: Office (831) 373-4778 Cell (831) 233-2092

Email: [ellen@firstnightmonterey.org](mailto:ellen@firstnightmonterey.org) website: [www.firstnightmonterey.org](http://www.firstnightmonterey.org)

## **Under 5 and over 50**

### **First Night Monterey celebrates a fun-filled New Year's Eve for all ages**

Families and kids of all ages will delight in the afternoon activities that kick off First Night Monterey on Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. Join your friends at Colton Hall at 3pm for **Kid's Night Out** where a bubble wrap stomp, **Hands on Art!**, Henna tattoos, Taiko drummers, **Carmel River School Dance Crew** and Junk Jam with the Junkman are the perfect way to begin your First Night Monterey celebration. Like all the events at First Night Monterey, the Kid's Night Out is a perfect way for families to celebrate the arts, music and dance as they usher in the New Year.

At 5:30 at Portola Plaza the signature parade of First Night kicks off. **The Twilight Procession** – a huge participatory parade where the spectators join dancers, stilt walkers, artists, and giant puppets as they make their way from Portola Plaza to Pearl Street, is not to be missed.

The more the mature set will also find events and activities geared to their interests and schedule at First Night Monterey this year. **Heartstrings Monterey**, a talented ensemble of local musicians playing violin, bass, hammered dulcimer, mandolin and guitar starts the event off on a perfect pitch in the Ferrante Room at the Monterey Conference Center. They will play three performances starting at 3:15. **Thom and his Cats** play wonderfully nostalgic big band and swing music in the Serra Ballroom at the Conference Center at 3:30, and they too will play multiple shows at that venue.

**The Monterey Symphony Brass Quintet** will tune up the afternoon with classical music standards and new favorites as their horns bring joy and the holiday spirit to all in attendance at the Carleton Hall at the Monterey Center for Spiritual Living (at the corner of Pacific and Franklin.) They will perform two concerts beginning at 3:30pm. As the afternoon morphs into evening **I Cantori di Carmel**, a long-standing audience favorite from First Nights gone by, will be on the stage at Carleton Hall performing choral music spanning from the baroque period to modern classics. I Cantori will perform at 6:30, 7:15 and 8pm.

### **About First Night Monterey**

First Night Monterey is a public value 501c3 non-profit arts organization that conducts year-round community outreach and arts education workshops that culminate at the landmark New Year's Eve celebration. First Night Monterey's mission is to foster the public's appreciation of visual and performing arts and celebrate families and community through workshops and the New Year's Eve celebration. First Night Mission Statement: To reveal and celebrate diversity through the First Night Monterey celebration and the First Night ArtWorks! program, using art as a catalyst to unify the community through creativity, imagination and participation. Visit [www.firstnightmonterey.org](http://www.firstnightmonterey.org) for more information or visit our Facebook page.

