

For Immediate Release

Publicity Contacts:

Ellen Martin, Executive Director, First Night Monterey

831-373-4778 office

ellen@firstnightmonterey.org

www.firstnightmonterey.org

Wendy Brickman

831-594-1500 cell brickman@brickmanmarketing.com

30th Annual First Night Monterey on New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31, 2022, with 9 Hours of Creative Interactive Activities, Live Music and Dance with Outstanding Entertainment For The Whole Family

Volunteers and Twilight Procession Participants Sought

December, 2022. Monterey, CA Don't miss a fantastic New Year's Eve celebration in beautiful Downtown Monterey. Enjoy an amazing array of top entertainment to choose from during First Night Monterey as it turns age 30!

Save the Date and Ring in the New Year on Saturday, December 31, 2022 with an unforgettable celebration in Monterey, CA that attracts people from around the world. The multi-award-winning annual First Night Monterey 2023 is a very special family-friendly New Year's Eve celebration on December 31, 2022 in historic downtown Monterey. Advance discounted buttons are available for purchase now. As New Year's Eve falls on a Saturday this year, the Monterey's First Night celebration will give families a great way to ring in the New Year.

"The City of Monterey is a special destination on New Year's Eve. Through the power of the arts, we can reflect on the past and celebrate our future." said Ellen Martin, Executive Director of First Night Monterey explains. First Night Monterey features unrivaled live performances and cultural experiences for the whole family. There is something fun for everyone – from jazz to rock, from Celtic to classical in many different venues and sites.

Become a Volunteer

Support First Night and the community and have a fun night by becoming a valued **Volunteer**. Apply now on the First Night Monterey website at www.FirstNightMonterey.org.

Here's what's planned for this year's event which runs from 3 pm to Midnight on December 31st.

Twilight Procession

Join us for the Twilight Procession as we enjoy the lights, the magic, and the joy of First Night into the New Year! It's a Mardi-Gras-style walking parade that begins at Portola Plaza and moves down Alvarado Street to Pearl Street, featuring bands, dance groups, large-scale movable sculptures, puppets, and costumed people. Successful elements include height, sound, lights and glow-in-the-dark materials. The Twilight Procession also serves as the finale for Kids' Night Out!

The Twilight Procession includes Art Cars, there are murals to take selfies by, and the Resolution Sculpture are just a few of the artful projects awaiting First Night'ers.

If you or your group would like to be part of The Twilight Procession, there is a form to complete on the website, www.FirstNightMonterey.org.

Live Entertainment:

First Night Monterey has a great entertainment line-up! The groups are listed alphabetically below with a detailed schedule listed on the website, www.FirstNightMonterey.org. (Subject to change - most up to date on website)

- [AJ LEE AND BLUE SUMMIT](#), explores the threads of great music through the lens of Bluegrass! AJ Lee & Blue Summit are pure, beautiful American music. Soaring harmonies, top notch picking and strumming as well as a healthy respect and reverence for the classic country, bluegrass and folk music of the past all add up to a band who are masters of the genre. Don't miss AJ!
****NEW FOR 2023** **FINALE BAND****
- [ACAN MARCHING WINTER PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE](#) is composed of standout students from their after-school drumline teams—Alisal CAN!
- [AZAHAR FLAMENCO DE MONTEREY](#) will bring us to the southern cities of Spain where Flamenco was born!
- Traditional folkloric dance from **BALLET FOLKLORICO** will put smiles on your faces!
- Perennial FNM favorite [BLACK IRISH BAND](#) opens the night with their highly entertaining Folk, Americana, and Celtic Pub-Rock!
- **THE DEAD CASSETTES**
****NEW FOR 2023****
- Jacob Chase is an incredible Singer/Songwriter from Salinas, playing now with a five-piece band and bringing a more exciting and upbeat blend of Soul / R&B/ Indie Rock and Pop.

- Local dance troupe [DI FRANCO DanceProject](#) will present a fun-filled program of dance!
- [FLASHPOINT ENTERTAINMENT](#) will entertain you with their Fire dancing shows incorporating dance and juggling!
- With his Acoustic French String Jazz Band, [GEORGE COLE](#) brings the music of the legendary gypsy jazz guitarist, Django Reinhardt, fully into the twenty-first century!

****NEW FOR 2023****

- Learn folk dancing with [GREEK VILLAGE DANCERS OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA!](#)
- [JASON FANN RHYTHM](#) presents Rhythms of Life—a Celebration of rhythm and dance from across the globe!
- You're the star! BEST BUY PRESENTS ["JUST DANCE!" VIDEO GAME](#)
- [LATIN JAZZ COLLECTIVE WITH JOHN NAVA](#) received a standing ovation from a full-house crowd at the 2017 Monterey Jazz Festival! ****FINALE BAND****
- Welcome the New Year with [MONTEREY BAY LION DANCE TEAM](#) symbolizing the arrival of prosperity and good luck.
- With big horn lines, catchy hooks, and down-to-earth lyrics, [MATT MASIH & THE MESSENGERS](#) is a must-see local act!

****NEW FOR 2023****

- Don't miss the return of [MC LARS](#), Monterey local Indie artist and literary post-punk rapper! MC Lars is the creator of Post-Punk Rap and Lit-Hop, which he has extended and powered into a fusion of Rap, Punk, and Jazz.
- The [MONTEREY COUNTY POPS!](#) will present a fabulous NYE program of music to celebrate the new year!
- [NA HAUMANA](#) brings the spirit of Aloha to First Night! Nā Haumāna recognizes their foundation in tradition. Today, they evolve with creativity and testing, experimenting in music and dance movement, teaching culture and dance from the Polynesian and Micronesian Islands.
- Traditional Mexican music and dance from PILAR MENDOZA AND WILLIAM FAULKNER will put smiles on your faces and take you to another time and place!
- RIVER VOICES is a local Americana group with lush harmonies, soaring violin and driving guitar.

****NEW FOR 2023****

- [THE ROBERT TURNER & KEVIN O'NEAL TRIO](#) plays Soul-Jazz: where Jazz, Blues And Gospel meet. Music from the heart!
- Monterey's [SENSORY TRIBE](#) will lift your spirits and leave you with a smile on your face!
- Hear the thunder of the drums! [SHINSHO MUGEN DAIKO](#) opens First Night Monterey with traditional Japanese drumming.
- Playing styles ranging from traditional to contemporary, [SINGING WOOD MARIMBA](#) brings high-energy music from Zimbabwe.

- [YAOCUAUHTLI CULTURAL DANCE](#) opens the First Night celebration with stunning costumes and traditional Aztec dances.

FREE PARK AND RIDE!

Park at Del Monte Center by the MST transit stop and be picked up by MST bus to take you downtown. Got strollers? No problem! A great way to get free parking and be taken to downtown by MST! You can also ride the bus for free and get to First Night. All the details on www.firstnightmonterey.org. Thanks for MST for this awesome partnership!

About First Night Monterey Buttons

First Night Monterey tickets are actually a colorful button which holds the image of New Beginnings and First Night 2023. Designed by a CSUMB student every year, attendees use it to check in all of the indoor sites. The winner this year was Matthew Lencioni. Beginning in November, buttons can be bought online at www.firstnightmonterey.org and after the first of December at all Safeway stores in Monterey County.

Buy Buttons (First Night Tickets) Now and Save!! Early Bird Pricing ends December 13th at 8pm!

Buttons will be available in stores at our retail partners after Thanksgiving.

FIRST NIGHT MONTEREY ADMISSION BUTTONS GIVE YOU:

From 3pm to midnight, multiple venues with 50+ Performances

4 Interactive Art Stations

Twilight Procession

Countdown-to-Midnight Finale Performance!

9 Hours of fabulous Art, Music and New Year's fun!

Admission Buttons can be purchased online through December 28, many retail locations throughout December, and at the event. Buying a button ensures that First Night Monterey offers the best in community arts and performing acts.

Your button supports the First Night Monterey celebration and directly supports the artists fees.

Many First Night venues are indoors, and an admission button is your ticket to these performances!

Buttons are non-refundable and available for pickup at Will-Call on December 30th and 31st. There is a nominal handling fee of \$2 per order. Online sales close December 28th; buttons may be purchased after the 28th in local stores or at the event.

Children 5 and under are admitted FREE!

NOTE: Prices change at 8pm online on December 31st or at store closing

Save money by buying early!

Admission Buttons are a work of original art and will be on sale for Will-Call pickup at Advance Purchase prices beginning online in November. The buttons can be purchased at select local stores beginning in December. Your Purchase Directly Supports the Artist Fees. Prices and dates are subject to change.

ADULT BUTTON (16 and older)

\$22 Early Bird Price November 14th to December 12th

\$26 Advance Purchase Price Until December 30th

\$30 Full Price December 31 (Day of Celebration), available at Event

YOUTH BUTTON (6-15 years old)

\$13 Early Bird Price November 14th to December 12th

\$16 Advance Purchase Price Until December 30th

\$20 Full Price December 31st (Day of Celebration), available at Event Kiosks

Children five and under are admitted free!

Buttons can be purchased online and there is more information can be found here: <https://www.firstnightmonterey.org/Buttons/>

More About First Night Monterey

The mission of First Night Monterey is to bring families together and unite the community through the arts. First Night Monterey is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organization with a commitment to excellence in presenting programs that are affordable, accessible, and alcohol-free. First Night programs broaden and deepen public appreciation of the arts, actively involve the whole family, and create a more caring community through shared experiences of our diverse cultural heritage.

First Night is a North American artistic and cultural celebration on New Year's Eve, taking place from afternoon until midnight. Some cities have all of their events during the celebration outdoors, but some cities have events that are hosted indoors by organizations in the city, such as in churches and theaters. Since it happens on New Year's Eve, First Night celebrations are actually held on the last night of the old year. First Night celebrates a community's local culture, often featuring music, dance, comedy and art.

First Night Monterey (FNM) was started by Paulette Lynch and her husband Ken Peterson in 1992, aided by a group of artists and Monterey Peninsula residents who wanted a creative alternative to the traditional New Year's Eve revelry. Paulette came to Monterey from the Boston area, and brought the First Night model to Monterey. The

event premiered with First Night Monterey 1993 on December 31, 1992 and received wide acclaim.

Stay overnight! There are many large and small hotels in Downtown

Monterey: <https://www.oldmonterey.org/directory/lodging/hotels> including many others throughout the area listed here: <https://www.seemonterey.com/hotels/hotels/>.

There are also wide variety of **great restaurants** in Downtown Monterey as well as at the nearby Old Fisherman's Wharf. For more details, check out https://www.oldmonterey.org/directory/food_and_drink/dining and <http://www.montereywharf.com> <https://www.montereywharf.com/dining.html>.

For more information: www.firstnightmonterey.org or call 831-373-4778.