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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FIRST NIGHTS AROUND THE U.S. CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR!

2021 STARTS HERE!

Ring in the New Year with a First Night first! This special program for New Year's Eve will bring you around the country and feature music, art, dance, and poetry from Virginia to Florida, from Illinois to California. First Nights are coming together, virtually, to showcase our local performers. Built around the four pillars of First Night (Art, Celebration, Community, and New Year's Eve), we will have a historic event for the entire family to enjoy.

Due to the ongoing COVID -19 pandemic, we cannot bring our communities together in the traditional way that brings joy to so many. But we can come together to share the holiday, make our resolutions for the new year, and ring in 2021 with the hope, unity, and optimism we are all ready to embrace.

Join First Night celebrations in Alexandria, Virginia; Monterey, California; Springfield, Illinois, St. Petersburg, Florida, and Winchester, Virginia, to enjoy kids' night out, music from around the country, and some interactive art activities. Thousands will come together to enjoy First Night in the comfort of their own homes with entertainment from these five First Night celebrations.

Our virtual celebration will bring you and your family the best of entertainment and a fun, joyful way to welcome 2021 together.

Check out each First Night host city to see how they will deliver a happy new year to all!

www.firstnightalexandria.org

www.firstnightmonterey.org

www.springfieldartsco.org

www.firstnightstpete.org

www.firstnightwinchester.com

[First Night Monterey 2021, Dec. 31st 3pm-Midnight on Premiering on YouTube.com/FirstNightMonterey!](https://www.youtube.com/FirstNightMonterey/)

CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE MONTEREY STYLE Wherever You Are!

Since 1993, Monterey's First Night has been a New Year's Eve celebration of artistic performances, the joy of families, and the beginning of a new year. In keeping with this Monterey tradition, the First Night celebration will open 2021 with an array of performances that will be broadcast on [YouTube.com/FirstNightMonterey](https://www.youtube.com/FirstNightMonterey).

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, we are unable to gather crowds in Historic Downtown Monterey for the traditional entertainment and attractions that bring joy to so many. We invite you to tune in to our virtual Celebration of the arts and ring in 2021 with the hope, unity, and optimism that we're ready to embrace. Share your resolutions for the new year and your celebrations from home by using #firstnightmonterey, #celebrate21 in your posts. Happy New Year!

Join First Night artists and performers to say adieu to 2020 and welcome in 2021 with all the possibilities that a new year implies. This year, First Night Monterey is a Virtual Online Celebration that will transport you into a world of wonder and imagination. Over 18 performances will showcase the very best artists and performers from Monterey to Virginia and from Florida to Illinois to Monterey.

First Night Monterey premieres at 3 p.m. with Kids' Night Out, featuring 2 hours of music, art and storytelling. Evening Festival of the Arts begins at 5:00pm with performances running until midnight, when you welcome in the new year with a finale of fireworks and Rock and Roll band.

Love music? There's music for everyone's taste. The smooth jazz sounds from Monterey Jazz Festival's Next Generation Jazz Band, and the Gerald Clayton Quartet. A perennial favorite of First Night, the Black Irish Band returns performing in an historic 1800 building and the soothing sounds of Heartstrings will have the entire family toe tapping. Other favorites include Mc Lars, Dirty Cello and East of Eden with Kiki Wow in her final Monterey concert.

Before New Year's Eve, First Night has several fun activities for the entire family. Our 2020 Scavenger Hunt is a great way for First Night'ers in Monterey to spend time outdoors with the family. Our public art scavenger hunt will take you on an adventure through the downtown streets of our 250-year-old Historic Monterey. Along the way, you're invited to take selfies and load them on FNM Facebook and Instagram pages.

Leading up to NYE we will have an assortment of Art Activities for the kids and adults! Make a celebration hat, a noisemaker, and create your own art as you watch the clock countdown to the New Year.

First Night Monterey 2021 Original Buttons are available and there are a variety of ways to get yours. Make a donation and we will mail buttons, NYE hats, horns and everything to celebrate the beginning of 2021.

Hashtag: #FirstNightMonterey

[Facebook.com/FirstNightMonterey](https://www.facebook.com/FirstNightMonterey)

[Twitter.com/FirstNighter](https://twitter.com/FirstNighter)

[Instagram.com/FirstNightMonterey](https://www.instagram.com/FirstNightMonterey)

#firstnightmonterey, #celebrate21

Looking for story ideas? We are happy to provide further details on activities and entertainment, set up interviews, provide a quote, or suggest new and interesting approaches. Feel free to reach out with any questions.

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