



July, 2023

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



Music at the Eugene Masonic Cemetery



Here's a schedule of live music at the Eugene Masonic Cemetery, with your favorites: *Music to Die For* and the outdoor *Music On the Square*. You'll find full information on both programs below.

"Last Sunday" Open House



We'll be hosting our monthly "Last Sunday" Open House this coming Sunday, July 30, in Hope Abbey Mausoleum. The doors will be open for visitors from 1 to 4 PM, and there will be two knowledgeable EMCA board members present to answer questions about the mausoleum and the cemetery grounds.

Please park on city streets because there is no general public parking on the cemetery grounds. Hope Abbey is the large concrete structure at the end of E. 26th.

A Rewarding Encounter

Charley Wright, EMCA board member



Earlier this summer, I took a break from gardening to go for a walk in the cemetery, where I met a youngish couple with a small girl in a bright dress. All three were clearly enjoying themselves.

The child didn't seem put off by the geezer in old clothes and started asking me questions. "When people die, where do they put their hands?"

I was surprised, and I didn't know how to answer, but Mom took it in stride. "Well," she said, "When Grandma died, her hands were at her sides, but when they buried her, her arms were across her chest."

That question and others led to mention of a marker they'd seen—it must have been one with a lamb on top. "How did that girl die?"

I told Beatrix, who by now had let me know that she was four, that a number of children were buried in the cemetery and that I thought many of them must have died of the flu. "But," I said, "These days children don't die of the flu, because we have flu shots to keep them well." Mom beamed. That was exactly the right answer, it seems.

We crossed paths again a few minutes later, and in response to Dad's praise for the grounds I mentioned that the cemetery has recently become an arboretum. I learned that the family was visiting from Madison, Wisconsin, where they also enjoy going to the arboretum to appreciate nature.

After we parted, I felt such a warm glow. Beatrix and her parents were having the kind of experience we hope visitors to our cemetery will be able to share for years and years to come. What a delightful, positive vision!

Music To Die For



Music To Die For Concert Series 2023

August 13: David Gross: guitar and vocal, with featured guests
September 10: UO Oregon Collegium Musicum
October 8: Alder Street Winds

Portlander David Gross started playing in the Chicago club scene in the '70s, and opened shows for a wide variety of musicians including Odetta, Dave Van Ronk, John Prine, Tom Waits, the Flying Burrito Brothers, Sonny Terry and Brownie McGee, John Fahey, and even Supertramp. In 2014, David teamed with legendary Jazz-fusion violinist Jerry Goodman for a *Music To Die For* acoustic concert in Hope Abbey. We welcome David back.

He will be joined by David Bersch, Sandy Holder and Percy Franklin who have been part of the Eugene music scene for years.

David has sung everything from bluegrass to German lieder, and he plays a mean guitar. Sandy and Percy have their own gig, both as singer-songwriters performing as "Cypress Home" since 2016, and in collaboration with other musicians. They'll join up with David Gross for an exciting afternoon at *Music To Die For*.

All MTFD concerts begin at 2 PM and finish about 3 PM.

Music on the Square



The musical offerings by the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association are expanding. We've experimented with presenting live music in the Public Square at the top of the cemetery hill in past summer seasons. We have a delightful summer series of *Music on the Square* with two concerts left in the season. Please note that these outdoor programs are separate from the *Music To Die For* performances held in Hope Abbey.

As always, both *Music On The Square* and *Music To Die For* are free, but donations are gladly accepted for cemetery maintenance.

Here's what's coming up.

Music on The Square Concert Series 2023

August 6: Kev Balkan Band Starts at 6 PM
September 24: Blugene Brass Starts at 6 PM

Kev Balkan Band

The word "Kef" refers to that spirit and energy shared by a group of people in celebration. It also refers to a Turkish concept that people across the Balkans, throughout the former domain of the Ottoman Empire, have taken as their own. Similarly, much of the music of the Balkans bears the unmistakable imprint of Turkish influence, and combined with Slavic, Romany and the many other regional and ethnic identities existing where the music is performed and enjoyed, Balkan music has become an intensely rich tradition.

Today, Balkan music is enjoyed not only among the diverse populations of its origins, but around the world, from recreational folk dances to arena concerts with thousands of fans bouncing to hip hop, funk, pop and electronica fusions. There is hardly a musical aesthetic not represented somewhere under the umbrella of "Balkan music."

Kev, the band, has been performing for dancers, festivals and sit-down audiences since 2007. Its music is a sampling of the regional genres found across the Balkans, from Bulgarian wedding music to Serbian brass band, and from 1960s radio-style orchestrations to simple melody/drone-based village music. Most repertoire comes from the folk tradition, learned from recordings or directly from notable musicians in the Balkan music community. Each band member brings a unique aspect to the music stemming from the diversity of their individual musical experiences and aesthetics.

Bring chairs and a picnic supper if you desire.

Note that there is no public parking in the cemetery, so please park on city streets and walk to the Public Square, but be aware that there is a steep uphill walk on the road to the Public Square. There is no transportation to get you up there.

The easiest option for getting to the Public Square is to be dropped off at the Elinor Street entrance on the south edge of the cemetery. Walk north towards the Public Square on level ground. Be aware that there is very little parking at the Elinor Street entrance.

John Bredesen, eNewsletter Editor
Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

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Mission Statement

To restore, rehabilitate, maintain, interpret and operate the historic Eugene Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum as a cultural and natural resource for the community.

The cemetery is operated for the public benefit,
but it is private property.
(A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization)



Eugene Masonic Cemetery
ASSOCIATION

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