

HOME OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC  
**FREIGHT & SALVAGE**  
COFFEEHOUSE

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Contact: Lisa Manning (510) 548-7603

[lisa@freightandsalvage.org](mailto:lisa@freightandsalvage.org)

August 6, 2009

**Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse Celebrates Grand Opening Week of  
New Green State-of-the-Art Folk Music Venue in Downtown Berkeley  
August 27-30, 2009**

BERKELEY, Calif., August 6, 2009 – The Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, the longest established full-time folk and traditional music venue west of the Mississippi River, will throw open the doors on August 27, 2009 for the grand opening show in their newly renovated 70-year-old building at 2020 Addison Street in Berkeley's Downtown Arts District. The culmination of a \$12 million, ten year project, this 18,000-square-foot green performing arts and teaching facility adds a major, state-of-the-art music venue to the heart of downtown Berkeley. The new facility, one half block from a BART station, doubles the nonprofit arts organization's listening room capacity to 440 seats and features an additional performance space seating 60-70 people, a sound system from world-renowned Meyer Sound, and six classrooms. The new facility, whose features include a living roof, was designed & constructed to meet the Gold standards for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

In addition to many generous individual donors and significant leadership gifts from Freight board members, the new home project received a \$1.4 million grant from the William and Flora **Hewlett Foundation**, a \$1.161 million grant from the **California Cultural and Historical Endowment**, and \$500,000 in challenge grant funding from the Edmund and Jeannik **Littlefield Foundation**.

Opening week celebrations feature four concerts reflecting the diversity and caliber of musicians for which the nonprofit organization has been famous including the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual **Freight Fiddle Summit** with **Alasdair Fraser**, the **David Grisman Quintet**, **Ramblin' Jack Elliott**, and a **Bluegrass Blowout**. The public is invited to explore the venerable non-profit's spacious new facility & preview the expanded educational programming during a [community open house](#) noon- 5pm on August 29 featuring 52

workshops, performances, and building tours. In addition, the Freight & Salvage is curating a music-focused art exhibit running August 26-September 6, **Moved by Tradition**, at the Addison Street Gallery at 2010 Addison Street.

A quietly committed bastion of acoustic music for the last 41 years, Freight & Salvage staff and community are all welcoming the opportunity for the historically low-profile Freight to emerge onto a wider, public stage with the move to the downtown Berkeley Arts District, amongst neighbors including Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Aurora Theatre, the Jazzschool, East Bay Media Center, and eventually the UC Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive.

“The Freight’s live performances already draw more than forty thousand patrons a year,” said **Mayor Tom Bates**. “We expect them to attract thousands of new patrons with the proximity to the University of California Berkeley, Berkeley High School, other arts venues and easy mass transit. They’ll be a significant contributor to the downtown cultural renaissance.

“At the heart of the Freight’s enduring place in the community is the incredible synergy we have with the artists that play here,” said Executive Director **Steve Baker**. “The Freight is a place where performers know that people appreciate their music as a vibrant part of our culture. We are thrilled this new facility will expand our ability to bring the music to a much greater audience through both the performance and teaching of this rich material.”

Echoing executive director Steve Baker’s sense of the special relationship held between the Freight & its performing artists, Grammy-winning bluegrass musician **Ralph Stanley** commented,

“I’ve always looked forward to coming to the Freight & Salvage to play. I remember playing in a room where folks were all packed together sitting on the floor. I am planning on having a show on my 100th birthday and hope to have it here at the Freight & Salvage. We’re looking forward to playing at your new place too.”

**Warren Hellman**, founder/funder of **Hardly Strictly Bluegrass** and co-chair of the Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse’s new home committee has this to say,

“For the last nine years the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass festival has shone a light on the roots and *americana* music that I love. But the Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse has been quietly carrying the torch for this music for the past 41 years -- 365 days a year. It’s a tremendous boon to the ongoing vitality of this music that this cultural institution’s new home in downtown Berkeley is a world class performance venue and educational facility.”

## **FREIGHT & SALVAGE HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT**

The Freight & Salvage, an all-ages, non-smoking, family-friendly performance venue in Berkeley, is world-famous for its presentations of folk, Americana, bluegrass, Celtic, blues, jazz, and Hawaiian artists, and also offers a rich and diverse program of world music. Presenting more than three hundred live performances annually, artists who have played the Freight over the past 41 years include Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Odetta, Alison Krauss, Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys, David Grisman, Alvin Youngblood Hart, David Bromberg, Dave Alvin, Brownie McGhee, Dar Williams, Nickel Creek, the Persuasions, and R. Crumb and the Cheap Suit Serenaders. Both **Ramblin' Jack Elliott** and **David Grisman** will be performing during the opening week events.

Nancy Owens founded the club in 1968, tacking on the word "Coffeehouse" to the "Freight & Salvage" sign of the used furniture store that occupied the original location. Owens initially intended the Freight to be an informal salon at which people could gather and socialize, but as musicians began asking to perform, music soon became the focal point.

Only three blocks from the original storefront location, in 1988, the Freight settled into the 220 seat facility at 1111 Addison Street in Berkeley. In 2000, with the help of the City of Berkeley, the Freight bought the property at 2020 Addison Street (1.3 miles from the 1111 Addison building), in the heart of Berkeley's Downtown Arts District. In January 2008 construction began on the new home. Opening night at the new downtown facility is August 27, 2009.

## **OPENING WEEK CELEBRATIONS**

Opening week celebrations feature four concerts reflecting the diversity and caliber of musicians for which the nonprofit organization has been famous including the **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Freight Fiddle Summit with Alasdair Fraser, Liz Carroll, and Darol Anger's Monster Quintet, the David Grisman Quintet, Greg Liszt & the Deadly Gentlemen, Ramblin' Jack Elliott**, and a **Bluegrass Blowout**, featuring the complete "A-list" of local bluegrass bands; **Laurie Lewis & The Right Hands, Bluegrass Intentions, the Kathy Kallick Band, High Country, and Jim Nunally & Keith Little**. These concerts are also highlights of the second annual [Downtown Berkeley MusicFest](#) August 27-30, produced by the Freight, featuring more than forty events at fourteen downtown presenting locations. In addition, the Freight & Salvage is curating a music-focused art exhibit running August 26-September 6, **Moved by Tradition**, at the Addison Street Gallery at 2010 Addison Street.

The public is invited to explore the venerable non-profit's spacious new facility & preview the expanded educational programming during a [community open house](#) noon-

5pm on August 29 featuring 52 workshops, 8 performances, 6 film screenings, and building tours. Among the workshops are an Irish session with **Shay Black**, “Latin American Song, Rhythm, and Guitar” by **Cascada de Flores**, a ukelele class from local instrument maker **Mike Da Silva**, a roots rock jam led by **Seth Affoumado**, and “Hambone How-to” with **Evie Ladin**. A detailed schedule is available online at [www.freightandsalvage.org](http://www.freightandsalvage.org). Saturday morning, August 29 from 10-noon the nationally syndicated radio show, **West Coast Live**, hosted by **Sedge Thompson** and featuring **Laurie Lewis**, will be broadcast live from the Freight’s new building.

“The new home will be a blessing on many levels, from performances to teaching to daily jams,” predicted **Steve Seskin**, composer of seven number-one hit songs. “The Freight was never ‘just a gig’ but completed an essential loop between nurturing young talent and showcasing the leading performers of our times.” Steve will present a “Songwriting for Kids” workshop at the open house.

## **FACILITY/ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES**

The new building itself carries the stamp of the Freight’s unique culture and the community in which it thrives. The design and construction team followed rigorous guidelines for achieving Gold level **LEED** (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for the new facility. Features contributing to LEED certification include extensive use of recycled wood, a living roof, proximity to mass transit, and low VOC paints. The Berkeley-based architecture firm of **Marcy Wong & Donn Logan** designed the new facility. “We’ve worked hard to maintain the friendly, club-like environment of the Freight. It’s part of their culture,” said architect **Donn Logan**. “We’ve designed the performance space to enhance sightlines and optimize sound quality. We also wanted to create a comfortable place for the audience to socialize. The Freight’s unique, craftsman-focused culture extended to the local vendors they sought out, including Berkeley-based **Swerve**, who designed & manufactured the Freight’s new listening-room chairs, and **Vetrazzo**, who manufactured the recycled glass countertops.

For more information contact Lisa Manning at 510-548-7603, [lisa@freightandsalvage.org](mailto:lisa@freightandsalvage.org) or visit the Freight website: [www.freightandsalvage.org](http://www.freightandsalvage.org).

**Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse**  
**2020 Addison Street- Berkeley, CA 94704**  
**Staff will be at the new location starting August 17, 2009**