

FREIGHT & SALVAGE

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***fiddlekids* Summer Camp for Kids Celebrates 20th Year** **20 years of inspiring folk music: unique learning & performance opportunity for kids** **June 26 – 30 & July 10 – 14, 2017**

(May 1, 2017 Berkeley, CA) Berkeley has long been a home of bluegrass, old time, and folk music, but learning to play by ear among friends eludes a lot of classically trained students.

Fiddlekids is a unique summer day camp devoted to traditional fiddle music. It welcomes students ages 7 – 15 with at least one year of violin/fiddle playing experience. The students learn to memorize tunes on the fly without music notation – the traditional aural style of sharing and learning tunes. *Fiddlekids* has helped many students forge a deeper connection to music by presenting variety.

Fiddlekids turns twenty this year and former campers now find themselves as teachers and counselors. **Leah Wollenberg**, who recently graduated from Oberlin Conservatory of Music and was once a Fiddlekid herself, is now one of the camp's coordinators. She says, "As a kid it was exhilarating to be surrounded by a group of peers who were as excited about music and playing as I was. I made lifelong friends. Everyone at camp makes an effort to be inclusive and welcoming, students and staff alike help each other learn the tunes, and by the end of the week, we make some great music."

For *fiddlekids* campers, the music making doesn't stop at the end-of-camp concert. Former campers and student musicians have been performing in the Freight lobby before shows, as part of the Berkeley Bluegrass Festival, and at the Berkeley Old Time Music Convention string band contest. Musician and radio producer **Eli Wirtschafter** says "*fiddlekids* freed me as a musician. I became comfortable improvising, and learning a tune by ear. Camp opened the door for me to learn not only folk music, but also jazz, klezmer, and rock and roll."

Created in 1998 when musician and teacher **Bobbi Nikles** couldn't find a suitable music camp for her daughter, *fiddlekids* and its reach have grown. Campers come from as far away as Hawaii to participate and scholarships make it possible for more local student musicians to attend.

Seven years ago, the Freight and Salvage added *fiddlekids* to its already robust offerings of classes and workshops. Camp is held at Berkwood Hedge School in Berkeley, culminating in a final performance for each of two weeklong sessions on the big stage of the Freight and Salvage. *Fiddlekids* boasts an incredible cast of teaching talent that includes **Julian Smedley, Caroline McCaskey, Karen Heil, Kaila Flexer, Suzy Thompson, Andrea Hoag, Finn Magill**, with dance teachers, **Evie Ladin** and **Robin Fischer**, and art instructor, **Leslie Keir**. And Bobbi Nikles, its founder and long time director, will be back to teach this year.

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Week 1 of *fiddlekids* will be from June 26 – 30, 2017 (Monday – Friday) from 9 am to 3 pm at Berkwood Hedge School, 1809 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, with a final concert on Saturday, July 1 at the Freight and Salvage, 2020 Addison Street, Berkeley (across the street from Berkeley Repertory Theater). Week 2 will be from July 10 – 14, 2017, 9 am to 3 pm, also at Berkwood Hedge School, and the final concert at the Freight and Salvage will be on Saturday, July 15.

Fiddlekids is for young violin students and fiddlers, ages 7 to 15 with one year of playing experience (no previous fiddling required) are welcome. Camp is divided into skill-based groups of roughly 15 fiddlers, and each child attends classes with three of the camp's fiddle instructors.

Event Summary

What: ***fiddlekids* Summer Camp for Kids**

When: Week 1: M-F, 9am-3pm June 26 - 30, 2017. Final concert: Sat. July 1.
Week 2: M-F, 9am-3pm July 10 - 14, 2017. Final concert: Sat. July 15.

Where: Berkwood Hedge School (camp)
1809 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, CA 94703

Freight & Salvage (final concert)
2020 Addison St.
Berkeley, CA 94704

Registration: Now open. \$570. Scholarships and discounts for siblings & two-week registration available.

Registration available via <http://thefreight.org/fiddlekids> or by calling the Freight & Salvage box office at (510) 644-2020 ext. 0 during box office hours, 12:30 pm - 7:00 pm daily.

