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It's summer concert time in Moraga

By Vera Kochan



Locals enjoy Moraga's first band in the Summer Concert Series Photo Vera Kochan

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Serrahn explained that almost immediately, MPF began a fundraising campaign to build a bandshell in Commons Park. The campaign was called "Buy-a Board for \$100" and managed to raise \$18,000 for the cause. Other community organizations kicked in to help meet the \$73,000 needed for construction costs. The bandshell was officially dedicated on July 4, 1985. It was on that day that the concerts were thereafter held on Thursday evenings.

The entertainment also changed to include nothing but musical groups from around the Bay Area. Local bands remained on the roster and included the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Band and Rossmoor Big Band.

Through the years, the number of concerts expanded to include anywhere between seven to 11 bands during the summer months of June through August. "We have bands coming out of our ears," stated MPF President John Greenblatt. "There are three or four people on the MPF committee that choose them. We are starting to skew the bands to a younger set that listen to the music from the 80s on up. Not many know who the Beatles were anymore." MPF doesn't mind getting feedback as to what types of bands should be included in a future series.

"The average crowd size is between 400 - 500 people," added Greenblatt. "It all depends on the weather more than the music. For the most part, these concerts are a social thing."

Lafayette Rock the Plaza Summer Concert Series. 3530 Plaza Way, Lafayette, (corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. & Moraga Road). Bring a picnic, chairs or blanket. Bands perform 6-8 p.m. Friday June 21: Bay Bridge Beat and Friday June 28: Lamorinda Idol Finalists.

Moraga Summer Concert Series Thursday evenings 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Moraga Commons Band Shell. June 20: Jazzphoria - Jazz Rhythm & Blues; June 27: Midnight Flyer - Eagles Tribute; July 4 : Houserockers - Rock & Soul (7 p.m. Concert); July 11: Mumbo Gumbo - Genre-bending Americana & Musical Stew; July 18: Steve Hanson & Carousel Cowboys - Modern Country; July 25: Purple Ones - Prince Tribute; Aug. 1: Native Elements - Reggae; Aug 8: Traveling Wilburys Revue - E.L.O, Orbison, Harrison, Dylan Tribute; Aug 15: 3 Day Weekend - Motown, R&B, Classic Rock

Orinda's Summer Concerts in the Park are held at the Orinda Community Park on Thursday night from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Call (925) 254.2445 for information. Thursday, June 20 - Opera in the Park; Thursday, July 11 - Lamorinda Idol; Thursday, July 25 - August Reed Band; Thursday, Aug. 1 - Tin Man; Thursday, Aug. 15 - Vintage Jukebox; Thursday, Aug. 29 - Spill the Wine; Thursday, Sept. 12 - Patron

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