

fiddlekids

twenty years of inspiring folk music



Photos by John Blasquez

Two unique, fun-filled weeks with inspiring teachers, fiddling by ear, improvisation, traditional dance, music-based art, and an end-of-camp performance at the Freight & Salvage

Week 1: June 26-July 1

- **Karen Heil:** Old Time, Appalachian
- **Caroline McCaskey:** Scottish
- **Julian Smedley:** Jazz, Swing, Improvisation
- **Suzy Thompson:** Blues, Fiddle Rags
- **Evie Ladin:** Dance
- **Leslie Keir:** Art (both weeks)

Week 2: July 10-15

- **Kaila Flexer:** Balkan, Greek
- **Andrea Hoag:** Scandinavian
- **Finn Magill:** Creative Improvisation
- **Bobbi Nikles:** Irish, Old Time
- **Robin Fischer:** Dance

We welcome young violinists and fiddlers, ages 7 to 14, with at least one year of playing experience.
No previous fiddling required.

Now in its 20th year, *fiddlekids* is a great opportunity for children to explore and learn a wide range of traditional fiddling styles—American Old Time, Appalachian, Irish, Scottish, Jazz, Swing, Klezmer, Cajun, Scandinavian, and Blues—by learning tunes, songs, and dance.

For more information or to register
contact the Freight & Salvage
510-859-1127
fiddlekids@freightandsalvage.org
www.fiddlekids.com

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A week-long Day Camp devoted to Traditional Fiddle Music
produced by Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse in Berkeley, CA

2017 *fiddlekids* staff

Julian Smedley is the camp director for both weeks of *fiddlekids*. A brilliant swing-jazz fiddle player and a veteran of the *fiddlekids* teaching staff, Julian's expertise is balanced by a down-to-earth teaching style, effortless patience, and a natural ability to pace his delivery. The kids love his inventiveness, spontaneity, and wit, and also his swingin' impact on camp. Julian currently coordinates the music programs at the Seattle Waldorf High School and also maintains a full schedule as a studio musician, producer, and performer in the Pacific Northwest.

Caroline McCaskey's enthusiastic teaching style has fostered a love of music in both children and adults for over 15 years. Caroline joined the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers at age 12, and toured for years as the leader of the Fiddlerats contra dance band. She is certified by the Suzuki Association of the Americas for Violin books 1-7, and now teaches Suzuki violin full time at Bristol Elementary School in Colorado Springs. Caroline began as an assistant at *fiddlekids* in 2002, and joined the ranks of the instructors in 2009.

Karen Heil is a fun and enthusiastic teacher and an expert fiddler and guitarist with a special love of old-time southern American fiddle music. Karen has been on the teaching staff at the Festival of American Fiddle Tunes, Grass Valley Camp, Lark in the Morning Camp, and the Austin Old Time Festival. She performs with the Bucking Mules and San Francisco's Knuckle Knockers. A natural livewire, she brings lots of spark and current to *fiddlekids*!

Bobbi Nikles is an acclaimed force in the Bay Area music scene and beyond. The founder of *fiddlekids* camp, which she led as director for many years, Bobbi also performs in a wide array of bands. Her luscious fiddling and driving rhythm add fuel to every project she's with, including Black Brothers Band, Douce Ambiance, Wake the Dead and many more. A sought-after teacher, Bobbi's style incorporates her depth of knowledge and her experience as a teacher for over 30 years.

Kaila Flexer a superb violinist in many styles, who is perhaps best known for her playing of music from the Balkans and Eastern Europe. Throughout her career she's maintained a thriving teaching studio in Oakland and traveled afar to teach workshops and music camps. A founder of respected groups like Third Ear and Next Village, Kaila currently performs with Gari Hegedus in the duo Teslim and with Shira Kammen in the Oakland Folkharmonic.

Suzy Thompson fell in love with Cajun music hearing the Balfa Brothers live in 1976. In the 1980s, Suzy played hundreds of dances with the California Cajun Orchestra, featuring the accordion playing of Danny Poullard. Suzy has also recorded and performed Cajun music with Michael Doucet, Marc and Ann Savoy, D.L. Menard, and many other Cajun greats. She has taught Cajun fiddling at Augusta Heritage's Cajun-Creole Week, Festival of American Fiddle Tunes and Montana Fiddle Camp.

Andrea Hoag is a Grammy nominee for her Swedish fiddling, and is fluent in a broad range of American and European fiddle styles. She has taught at Festival of American Fiddle Tunes, the Swannanoa Gathering, and Ashokan Fiddle and Dance Weeks. Andrea is also the founding director of Freyda's Hands, a non-profit organization sponsoring cross-genre collaboration in the performing arts.

Finn Magill is a two-time finalist at the All-Ireland Championships, and he is proficient in several genres. He has toured the U.S., Europe, Africa, and Brazil performing Irish, bluegrass, jazz, oldtime and Brazilian choro. Finn has collaborated with numerous world class musicians over the last ten years, such as John Doyle and members of Lúnasa, and has served as an instructor at over a dozen fiddle camps around the U.S. and Canada. Based in Rio de Janeiro since 2014, he is an ambassador of Brazilian choro music.

Evie Ladin is a banjo player, step-dancer, singer, songwriter and square-dance caller with a lifetime of experience in traditional American cultural arts. The polyrhythmic funk of her clawhammer banjo, resonant voice, and rhythmic dance have been heard from "A Prairie Home Companion" to Hardly Strictly Bluegrass. She is also the Executive Director of the International Body Music Festival. Evie skillfully connects the music to dance traditions and believes that understanding the music and the dance makes any player a better musician.

Robin Fischer is a Berkeley-based musician, dance caller, and in-demand fiddle teacher. She loves calling and teaching dances anywhere live fiddle music happens to be getting newbies out on the dance floor. She is a regular caller in the Bay Area at family dances, weddings, music camps/festivals, parties, and of course big ol' community dances! Robin loves how equalizing traditional square dancing is - no levels, no prerecorded music, just an old fashioned dance party.



FREIGHT & SALVAGE

Camp Location (Mon-Fri)

Berkwood Hedge School
1809 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94703

Saturday Concert Location

Freight & Salvage
2020 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA 94704

