

NEWS



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PATRICK BALL PERFORMS DECEMBER 11 IN SUNNYVALE

Modern day bard rekindles songs, stories of Christmases past

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Celtic harper and storyteller Patrick Ball, a Sunnyvale Theatre audience favorite for 20 years, will perform a holiday concert of seasonal music and spoken word at Sunnyvale Theatre, Saturday, December 11, at 8 p.m., as part of the City's Evenings of Cultural Arts concert series.

Ball returns with a festive show that grew out his award-winning holiday CD, *A Christmas Rose*, which was named Best Seasonal Recording of 1991 by the National Association of Independent Record Distributors.

His skillful performance on brass-strung Celtic harp gives traditional carols such as "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "Auld Lang Syne" a special magic. His recitations of passages from Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, Kenneth Graham's *The Wind in the Willows* and verse from Shakespeare, William Butler Yeats and Thomas Hardy reflect a spirit of hope that is universal: hope for something wondrous and for a light in the darkness of winter.

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A self-taught harp player, Ball is now considered one of the premiere Celtic harpist storytellers in the world. He has recorded nine instrumental and three spoken-word albums and earned national awards in both categories. Ball has received grants from the Zellerbach Family Fund and the California Arts Council and is the recipient of the Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Association.

As Sunnyvale Theatre's most frequently requested performer, Ball has performed in every Evenings of Cultural Arts season since the program's inception 20 years ago, however this is only the second time his appearance has coincided with the holiday season.

The intimate Sunnyvale Theatre is located at the Community Center, 550 E. Remington Drive, between El Camino Real and Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road. General admission tickets are \$28. Discount tickets for students and seniors are \$22. Single Subscriptions start at \$80. All Evenings of Cultural Arts programs are Saturdays at 8 p.m. Group discounts are available. For tickets, call the Sunnyvale Theatre Box Office at (408) 733-6611. The box office is open Monday – Friday, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., and two hours prior to shows. For additional information, call the Sunnyvale Theatre Administrative Office at (408) 730-7725, TDD (408) 730-7501, or visit *Arts.inSunnyvale.com* on the Web.

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