

# NEWS



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## **BAREFOOT NELLIES PERFORM JANUARY 8 IN SUNNYVALE**

### **Mostly female band is a bluegrass festival favorite**

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – The Northern California Bluegrass Society’s Bluegrass Band of the Year, The Barefoot Nellies, will kick off the New Year with a concert at Sunnyvale Theatre, Saturday, January 8, at 8 p.m., as part of the City’s Evenings of Cultural Arts concert series.

The Barefoot Nellies’ picking prowess and high harmony vocals have wowed crowds at some of the West’s biggest bluegrass festivals, including San Francisco’s Hardly Strictly Bluegrass, California Bluegrass Association’s Father’s Day Festival, Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival in Tres Pinos, Anderson Valley Bluegrass Festival and Kings River Bluegrass Festival.

The Barefoot Nellies’ repertoire includes plenty of chestnuts from Flatt & Scruggs, the Stanley Brothers, Bill Monroe and Jim Martin, plus Lyle Lovett, George Strait, Nancy Sinatra and even a little Led Zeppelin.

Originally an “all-gal” band in a male-dominated genre, the group describes its sound as “traditional bluegrass, just a fifth higher.”

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Bass player Jess Beebe provides the band's thumping rhythm foundation on her 1973 Engelhardt Swingmaster bass, named Fiona. Beebe also sings baritone vocals.

Texas-style fiddler Betsy Maudlin was trained as a classical violinist and was a finalist in the 2005 Western Open Fiddle Contest. She has performed with the Shut-ins, West of Kentucky, Homespun Rowdy, Lone Mountain, Folkslayers of Yore and the children's band Toodala Ramblers.

Banjo player and lead vocalist Prentice Sellers discovered bluegrass in the 1990s and has learned nearly every tenor, lead and baritone part to hundreds of traditional bluegrass songs. Sellers also plays in the bluegrass group Lone Mountain with her sister and their husbands.

Mandolin player and vocalist Nicole Solis performed as rhythm guitarist and lead singer with Portland's Acme All-Purpose Swing Band before immersing herself in the Bay Area bluegrass scene. Solis has performed with the honky-tonk country rock band the Local 44s and writes country-inspired originals that round out the Barefoot Nellies set lists.

The group's newest member and only "Barefoot Nelson" in the bunch is guitarist Adam Roszkiewicz, who also performs with Whisky Richards and A.J. Roach and has toured with Michelle Shocked. Also a classical guitarist, Roszkiewicz is a faculty member at the Community School of Music and Arts in Mountain View.

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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