



**SAN JOSE DOWNTOWN
ASSOCIATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Music in the Park announces 20th anniversary contest winners

**Top winners score Vespa LX50 scooter, airline tickets and guitars
Free concerts at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, July 10-Sept 4, in Plaza de Cesar Chavez**

SAN JOSE, Calif. – In celebration of the 20th season of free concerts in downtown San Jose, concert-goers and music lovers took home prizes including a Vespa LX50 scooter, airline tickets and guitars. Michelle Fisk of Felton won the grand-prize scooter – she was the only person to match seven of the top nine performances as chosen by music writers at Metro Newspapers.

For a chance to win, more than 750 participants entered their dream Music in the Park lineup, choosing from 19 previous seasons of headliners. The fan lineups that best matched the list put together by Metro's writers won the top prizes. The winners received their good news at the first Music in the Park concert of this 20th anniversary season, July 10, featuring the Pete Escovedo Orchestra. The contest started in late May.

Four contestants matched six out of the nine. The tie was broken during a drawing held on the park stage July 10 between sets. Jill Saunders of Campbell took home the airline tickets from Southwest Airlines.

Third-prize winners Robert Herrera of San Jose, Ligia Oliviera of San Jose and Pete Smith of San Jose won guitars from Guitar Center. A random drawing of entrants also occurred for free pizza from Pizza My Heart restaurants.

Fisk, who works downtown, has come to the concerts for 18 years, since her college days. "It's nice to relax with my friends, have some food and wine, and watch the shows," she said.

"The contest was a great way to kick off our 20th season," said Scott Knies, executive director of the San Jose Downtown Association. "We were proud to have Pete Escovedo open our series, and we have great performers lined up to play for free on Thursday evenings for the rest of the summer."

The 20th season of Metro's Music in the Park boasts a remarkable array of talent this year and July is jam-packed with a variety of genres. Pete Escovedo's Latin Jazz kicks off the season with his 14th performance, the most appearances by any musician at Music in the Park. Flogging Molly's authentic Irish instruments and alternative Irish rock sound graces the stage July 17. On July 24, Vanessa Carlton gives a first listen to her third album release scheduled to drop in Oct. Reggae fans will flock to the park July 31 to see Junior Reid with his sons Andrew and Wada Blood.

The rest of the series includes Lenny Williams and D'Wayne Wiggins on Aug. 7; Rocco DeLuca & the Burden (Aug. 14); The White Album Ensemble (Aug. 21); a band still to be announced on Aug. 28, and The Last Goodnight (Sept. 4).

Each of the nine free concerts begin at 5:30 p.m. at Plaza de Cesar Chavez, Market Street between San Fernando and San Carlos Streets, in the heart of downtown San Jose.

Metro's picks of the top nine performances include: The English Beat, Smash Mouth, Pete Escovedo, Greg Kihn Band, John Hiatt, Calexico, Toots and the Maytals, Booker T Jones Band and White Album Ensemble.

From the contestants' viewpoint, the top shows were by Tower of Power (42 percent), Smash Mouth (41.4 percent), Pete Escovedo (38.6 percent) and Greg Kihn (25 percent). Every artist in the history of the series received at least one vote, a testimony to the diversity of the musical genres presented at Plaza de Cesar Chavez.

The San Jose Downtown Association produces the shows and Metro Newspapers is title sponsor. The music series is presented by Dos Equis and Tecate beers; find these along with J. Lohr Wines, Red Bull and other beverages for sale around the park.

For more information, call the 24-hour information line at (408) 279-1775, extension 42 or log onto www.sjdowntown.com.

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Photos available upon request

San Jose Downtown Association is a non-profit group of business and property owners working to improve the vitality and livability of downtown San Jose.