

Master Gardener: Music in the Gardens

By David Blood

Oakland Tribune correspondent

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THE ALAMEDA county Master Gardeners will conduct tours of our various projects at the Lake Merritt Trials Garden, host a plant sale, and provide interactive garden activities for kids June 6 as part of "Music in the Gardens."

"Music in the Gardens: A Celebration in the Gardens at Lake Merritt" is an annual event, free to the public, celebrating the many diverse gardens at the Lake Merritt Garden Center. This year's celebration focuses on great music played by musicians scattered throughout the park.

As you stroll through various beautiful gardens including the Community, Mediterranean, Sensory and Bonsai, you will encounter 10 musical ensembles and choirs performing classical jazz, bluegrass and music by the Pacific Boychoir and a renowned shakuhachi (Japanese flute) player. There also will be food for sale, a silent auction and many children's' activities.

If you have any questions on raising vegetables in your own backyard, patio or balcony, this is the day to visit. Master Gardeners will be available to help not only with all aspects of vegetable gardening, but to provide information on creating a butterfly or bee-friendly garden, developing a drought-friendly and attractive landscape, and to just answer questions.

Composting will be explained for those committed to going green. Kids won't want to miss the "Find the Worm" game, and gardeners may find vegetable and drought tolerant plants they seek at the plant sale.

The Master Gardeners' Trials Garden is in the Community Garden area. To learn about the celebration, visit <http://gardensatlakemerritt.org/music-in-the-gardens/#more-691>.

David Blood is a Master Gardener. For more information on Alameda County Master Gardeners, go to <http://acmg.ucdavis.edu>. Contact the Plant Doctor hot lines at 510-639-1371 or 925-960-9420. For more gardening information, go to the California Master Gardener Web site, <http://camastergardeners.ucdavis.edu>.

If You Go

WHAT: Music in the Gardens: A Celebration in the Gardens at Lake Merritt

WHEN: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. June 6

WHERE: 666 Bellvue Ave., Oakland

COST: Free