



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TOWN HALL THEATRE TRANSPORTS YOU TO 1900'S PARIS WITH  
SONOMUSETTE: FRENCH CHANSONS**

January 26th, 2024– Featuring Parisian singer Mimi Pirard, SonoMusette will transport you to the French café music scene of mid-1900s Paris through the songs of iconic musicians such as Edith Piaf, Yves Montand, Jacques Brel, Charles Trenet, Georges Brassens, Serge Gainsbourg, and many others.

SonoMusette weaves musette accordion, guitar, bass, and drums into a musical tapestry that evokes the provocative and melancholic music of mid-century Paris. This music has retained its power to charm listeners of all generations and SonoMusette taps that nostalgia with artistry in both vocals and instrumentation. This is the Paris that lives in our memories.... and in our imaginations.

Tickets will be \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. This event will also have VIP tickets for \$40, which includes a private sound check, first chance to reserve seats, light Hors d'oeuvres and drinks from Rêve Bistro. VIP doors at 1:00pm, general doors at 1:30pm with music at 2:00pm.

***"Of the many interpreters of the French song tradition, to my mind and ear,  
SonoMusette is one of the very best."***

*-Carolyn Burke • Author of No Regrets, The Life of Edith Piaf*

***"SonoMusette creates and captures vintage Parisian music with passion and power."***

*-Charlie Swanson • The Bohemian*

**Mimi Pirard • vocalist:** Mimi began her singing career at age thirteen in Saint Germain en Laye as a member of Atelier Chanson, Paris. At age seventeen Mimi moved to California where she and her brother Gabe began performing regularly throughout the Bay Area. They were awarded The North Bay Music Awards, "Best World Music Band". Today Mimi sings with SonoMusette where she explores and exudes her favorite musical styles and songs.

**Robert Lunceford • accordion:** Robert began playing the accordion at age seven while growing up in the Los Angeles suburb of Huntington Park. Robert's musical interests have strongly focused on European and traditional music. Serving as musical director for Cinnabar Theater's 2014 production of Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris, as well as the 2015 production of Edith Piaf: Beneath Paris Skies, Robert was nominated for "Best Musical Direction" by The Bay Area Theater Critics Circle.

**Jan Martinelli • upright bass and piano:** Known for her stylistic range from Latin, jazz, and funk to blues and folk, Jan's soulful approach to the bass can be heard on more than 30 albums. She has played major jazz festivals such as Aspen, Barbados, Monterey, San Francisco, and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Jan has toured nationally with Holly Near since 2012.

**Isaac Vandever • guitar and bass:** Isaac began learning music performance in Oakland, California public schools, going on to earn a degree in guitar performance from Humboldt State University. Isaac is now a band director for Rincon Valley Union School District in Santa Rosa. Isaac has performed in a wide variety of genres and ensembles from free form jazz to cover bands.

**Kendrick Freeman • drums:** Kendrick has a background in both drum set and hand drums, having studied with American drumset artists and musicians from Ghana, Congo and the Caribbean, with an emphasis on the traditional music of Haiti. Kendrick received a grant from the National Endowment For The Arts for study with drumset artist George Marsh and support from the Alliance For California Traditional Arts as part of his 11-year apprenticeship with Haitian master drummer Daniel Brevil. Kendrick is on staff at Sonoma State University in the jazz department.

## **ABOUT TOWN HALL THEATRE**

Established in 1944 as the Dramateurs, Town Hall Theatre Company is the oldest continuously active theatre in Contra Costa County. Town Hall Theatre (THT) was awarded Best Theatre Troupe 2016 by Diablo Magazine, Best of The East Bay, and is the past recipient of numerous Shellie Awards, and Theatre Bay Area Awards. THT is also home to an extensive children's educational program, twice voted the Best Children's Theatre Company by Bay Area Parent Magazine. THT's home is the historic Town Hall Theatre building located at 3535 School Street in Lafayette which is owned by the Lafayette Improvement Association (LIA).

## **CALENDAR Information for SONOMUSETTE: FRENCH CHANSONS**

**WHO: TOWN HALL THEATRE COMPANY**

**WHAT: SonoMusette: French Chansons, Songs from the Cafés of Paris**

**DATE:** February 25th, 2024. At 2:00pm.

**WHERE:** Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette

**TICKETS:** \$25 in advance. \$30 at the door. \$40 VIP (includes glass of rose from Loire Valley and light bites from Rêve Bistro) [townhalltheatre.com/sonomusette](http://townhalltheatre.com/sonomusette)