

SANTA BARBARA



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5 QUESTIONS with NELS LUND

Children's folk singer Nels Lund and his Peanut Butter Cookies Band will perform a family concert at noon Saturday in the Arlington Theatre.

Part of the Santa Barbara Symphony's new family series, the show is geared toward kids from 4 to 10, some of whom will be invited onto the stage to sing and clap with the band. Peanut butter cookies, of course, will be served with milk during intermission.

Lund, an Encinitas resident who's been performing kids' music for 22 years, will teach songwriting workshops today at Roosevelt School, Cold Spring School and Girls Inc. Some of his students will perform the resulting songs at the Saturday concert.

Concert tickets, which are \$10 for kids and \$25 for adults, may be purchased by calling 963-4408 or 898-9386.

Q. How did you become a children's performer?

A. I'm a singer/songwriter from way back, did a lot of folk singing when I was younger. When my daughters were born, me and my wife did a lot of fun songwriting for the babies. We'd sing a song and neighbors would hear it. We'd perform in playgroups and preschools.

Q. What kind of songs did you sing

your girls?

A. We would do fun little finger-play games, like the Pointing Song, Peek-a-Boo games, a song around Simon Says. We'll be performing that, by the way, in the show.



COURTESY PHOTO

Q. Is performing for children very different than performing for adults?

A. There's more pressure. You've got to be more on the ball. Adults will sit and listen even if they don't necessarily like a song; they'll wait for the next one. They'll be quiet and patient. Children won't do that. They have no patience if they don't connect right away with what you're doing. Everything has to be engaging.

Q. Why not The Oatmeal Cookies Band or even The Snickerdoodles?

A. The Peanut Butter Cookies band goes way back to 20 years ago when we were trying to think about what to call our band, something kid friendly. We happened to be eating peanut butter cookies and someone said how about the Peanut Butter Cookies Band?

Q. So, Nels, the question everyone's dying to know: smooth or extra-crunchy?

A. I think crunchy.

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