

# Festival gives city new landmark

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**SANTA CRUZ** — White and billowy against beige hills and the green redwood ridge of the UCSC campus, a tent that is housing this year's Cabrillo Music comes complete with a view.

In deciding to move the festival from its former Cabrillo College Theater home, organizers had coveted the UCSC hillside at the crest of the entrance to campus.

"I said, 'hey, if we're going to go to all this trouble, let's get the best place in the county,'" recalled Rick Gydesen, the festival's executive director.

UCSC complied by donating the site and providing services to help prepare it for the 80-by-140 foot tent.

Saturday afternoon found a stiff wind rustling plastic-coated canvas and clinking the metal fastening rings. Tent sounds blended with piano notes issuing from the third

concert of the festival's 11-part series. Inside, all was bright white, a space filled with music. Outside, the city and the sparkling sea was spread below. In between, a green row of Port-a-Potties stood guard.

Festival organizers proudly point out that they have created a performing arts hall out of a cow pasture.

They rented the tent from the same outfit that supplied tenting for the recent Statue of Liberty celebration and the 1984 Olympics.

The tent came to the site in 10-foot sections, to be set up "any size you want," Gydesen said. Originally, the festival planned for 80-by-130 feet, but it turned out easier to set up an 80-by-140 tent, "which was good. We could add more seating."

So far, the festival office estimates that 9,000 tickets have been purchased, with three of the 11 shows sold out as of Saturday morning.

In the evenings, it may get chilly

outside, but closing the flaps leaves it perfectly comfortable inside, according to Gydesen.

"I had on just an open blazer (on opening night Thursday), and I was very comfortable."

The tent company, Academy Tent and Awning of Los Angeles, charges rent by the month. The two-week festival will pay \$10,000 for its month of tent use, "from setting it up to pulling it down," said Gydesen.

The tent went up on July 10. A tent crew sent by the company had no problems with their task, Gydesen said, thanks to prior preparation of the site by UCSC's architect and surveyors, and by Granite Construction Co.

Personnel with UCSC's Campus Facilities Office had surveyed and designed the site, so that Granite was able to bring in gravel and dirt to fill in and level the hillside area in just one day of work, Gydesen said. UCSC also brought in a water line

and telephone lines, and provides security for the site.

Power is supplied by a 900-amp generator. The stage and lighting system are rented; the 920 chairs come from USCS, Holy Cross Church, and other places.

USCS is not charging the festival rent, nor does the campus plan any use for the site outside of the festival season, according to a campus spokesman.

The music festival had been supported by Cabrillo College until 1978, when funding cuts from Proposition 13 forced the festival to become fully independent. Cabrillo College still provides a rent-free office for the festival.

Gydesen said that the festival plans to use the hillside site in future years.

"We've put grass seed down. We are thinking of keeping it watered, (so) next summer we'll have a green lawn."



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

What do the Olympics, Statue of Liberty and Cabrillo Music Festival have in common? This tent.