



**Solvang Danish Days Media Contact:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 19, 2015: US Air Force Band of the Golden West, “Galaxy”, to Perform Free Concert during 79th Annual Solvang Danish Days, California’s Premier Danish Heritage Festival**

***-- Military Band to Entertain Guests with Rock, Pop and Country Hits; Galaxy Joins Local Rock Band, “Echoswitch”, in Free Danish Days Saturday Concert Line-Up --***

**September 1, 2015 – Solvang, CA – “Solvang Danish Days” ([www.solvangdanishdays.org](http://www.solvangdanishdays.org)), California’s premier Danish heritage festival, continues to **augment its three-day event schedule, expanding entertainment opportunities** for all ages **throughout the entire event weekend, Friday through Sunday, September 18 through 20.** The 2015 edition of Solvang Danish Days is carrying on the traditions of Danish Days past, while mixing in more modern practices and **adding new facets to the 79th annual celebration.** One **new highlight of this year’s event,** is the special **performance by [US Air Force Band of the Golden West, Galaxy](#), who will delight guests with a free concert on Saturday, September 19, after the Danish Days Parade: the Galaxy concert will run from approximately 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM.****

The **new family-friendly event** will take place **on the Midgaard Pavilion Stage in Parking Lot 2, in downtown Solvang, adjacent to the Danish Days’ Viking Beer & Wine Garden.** The sounds of Galaxy will pull attendees to their feet as they perform a wide variety of musical styles; playing rock, pop and country hits from the past to today’s Top 40.

Galaxy is the USAF Band of the Golden West’s newest ensemble, featuring powerful vocals and intricate musicianship. Representing diverse educational and cultural backgrounds, the members of Galaxy combine their innate musical talents with their passion for high-energy performance, while they effectively share the Air Force story with audiences throughout the western region of the U.S. Galaxy members will themselves, be deployed to the Middle East in the spring of 2016.

Galaxy takes great pride in their ongoing musical support of the morale and welfare of U.S. warrior-airmen and our joint-combined forces deployed across the globe. The United States Air Force Band of the Golden West is dedicated to engaging communities and building partnerships, telling the Air Force story, honoring military heritage, enhancing morale for uniformed service members, and recruiting the finest Americans to serve in the United States Air Force. In addition to the generous community spirit of military band, Galaxy, members of the 216th Space Control Squadron and the 101st Squadron Civil Air Patrol will be assisting with this year’s Solvang Danish Days Parade.

**Galaxy’s Saturday, September 19 Danish Days performance precedes the Solvang 2nd Century Street Party (5:00 PM – 8:00 PM), which also features a live rock band performing on the Midgaard Pavilion Stage, adjacent to the Danish Days’ Viking Beer & Wine Garden.** This year, **Street Party revelers will be treated to musical headliners, [Echoswitch, a local 80s hard rock band](#) comprised of Santa Barbara County Sheriff Deputy, Charlie Uhrig, and his two sons.** All ages are welcome at the Street Party (*must be 21 years or older to enter Viking Beer & Wine Garden*), and the **concert is free** and open to the public; the performers are donating their time and talent to the community.

For **more information about the USAF Band of the Golden West,** please visit: [www.bandofthegoldenwest.af.mil/events/index.asp](http://www.bandofthegoldenwest.af.mil/events/index.asp), [facebook.com/bandofthegoldenwest](https://www.facebook.com/bandofthegoldenwest), [twitter.com/BandGoldenWest](https://twitter.com/BandGoldenWest), [youtube.com/user/USAFGoldenWestBand](https://www.youtube.com/user/USAFGoldenWestBand) or [instagram/usafbotgw](https://www.instagram.com/usafbotgw).

More **information about Solvang Danish Days**, including a full history of the event, **updated 2015 schedule and details**, parade applications and complete contact information, is **available at [www.SolvangDanishDays.org](http://www.SolvangDanishDays.org)**; event weekend highlights are included at the end of this release. **Ticketed portions of Danish Days weekend are now on sale, at [squareup.com/market/solvang-days](http://squareup.com/market/solvang-days)**. Solvang Danish Days is on Facebook and Twitter at [facebook.com/SolvangDanishDays](https://facebook.com/SolvangDanishDays) and [twitter.com/DanishDays](https://twitter.com/DanishDays).

**Questions, media requests for interviews and/or photos**, may be directed to **Anna Ferguson-Sparks, Stiletto Marketing**, at **1.877.327.2656** or [info@stiletto.com](mailto:info@stiletto.com).

#### **About the Solvang Danish Days Foundation**

In early 1995, the Solvang City Council approached Santa Ynez Valley residents from long-established, local Danish families and other interested groups, and recommended setting up a non-profit foundation – Solvang Danish Days Foundation – to formally plan and organize the increasingly popular, annual Danish Days festivities. The original Solvang Danish Days Foundation board members were Ken Andersen, Brenda Anderson, Hans Birkholm, Max Hanberg, Howard Petersen, David Rasmussen and Henry Skytt. The Foundation members meet throughout the year to ready each year's celebration. Donations and volunteers for the event, are always welcome; please [contact the Foundation](#) for more information.

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#### **Solvang Danish Days 2015 – Event Weekend Highlights**

##### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015**

**4:00 PM: Free Concert** featuring Danish musicians, [Manne](#), performing live at the Solvang Park Gazebo, Mission Drive and First Street.

**4:00 PM: Chainsaw Carver, George Kenny**, will begin carving his wooden creations on Friday afternoon; spectators will be able to view the progress of his work throughout the weekend.

**5:00 PM – 10:00 PM: Viking Beer & Wine Garden** – Outdoor beer and wine garden; supports the Solvang Danish Days Foundation. Viking Beer & Wine Garden continues on Saturday. (*Guests must be 21 years of age or older to enter the Viking Beer & Wine Garden and to purchase alcoholic beverages.*)

**7:30 PM: Torchlight Parade** – Free for participants, all ages welcome, candles will be provided. Route begins at Alisal Road and Laurel Avenue, strolling south down Alisal and ending at Solvang Park.

**8:00 PM: Opening Ceremonies in Solvang Park introducing 2015 Danish Maid, Mia Andersen.** Velkommen Street Dance follows with Danish dancers performing to live music, and a short story narrated by **Randel McGee as Hans Christian Andersen**.

##### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015**

**8:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Aebleskiver Breakfast** on Copenhagen Drive and First Street; [tickets available on-line in advance](#), or at the event entrance. *Aebleskiver Breakfast also featured on Sunday, same times.*

**10:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Kid's Korner** featuring LEGO® and a supervised Play & Rest Area, in Solvang Park. *Kid's Korner also featured on Sunday, same times.*

**10:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Viking Encampment** – Visit the Ravens of Odin, Norse Educational Group, as they bring Viking times to life through historical reenactments. Features a Viking Age Weaponry demo on Saturday. *Viking Encampment also featured on Sunday, same times.*

**10:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Living History Festival** at Elverhoj Museum of History & Art (1624 Elverhoy Way; [www.elverhoj.org](http://www.elverhoj.org)). Free, interactive activities for all ages, plus artisans, craftspeople and storytellers. *Living History Festival also featured on Sunday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.*

**11:30 AM: Free Aebleskiver Eating Contest** – Corner of Copenhagen Drive and First Street. All ages welcome for this five-minute competition. *Contest also featured on Sunday, same time.*

**2:30 PM: Danish Days Parade** – Includes the Solvang Village Band atop the Carlsberg Beer Wagon, floats, equestrians, Village Dancers and *more*. Line-up starts at 1:30 PM on First Street, between Molle Way and Oak Street; parade begins by turning east on Copenhagen Drive, then north on Alisal Road, west on Mission Drive, south on Fourth Place, east on Copenhagen, south on Second Street, finishes at corner of Oak Street near Solvang City Hall.

**3:30 PM – 4:30 PM: Free Concert; US Air Force Band of the Golden West, “Galaxy”** – Family-friendly event will take place on the Midgaard Pavilion Stage in Parking Lot 2, in downtown Solvang, adjacent to the Danish Days’ Viking Beer & Wine Garden. The sounds of Galaxy will pull guests to their feet as they perform a wide variety of musical styles; playing rock, pop, and country hits from the past to today’s Top 40. For more information, visit the USAF Band of the Golden West at [www.bandofthegoldenwest.af.mil/events/index.asp](http://www.bandofthegoldenwest.af.mil/events/index.asp).

**5:00 PM – 8:00 PM: Solvang 2nd Century Street Party** featuring [Echoswitch, a local 80s hard rock band](#), performing on the Midgaard Pavilion Stage in Parking Lot 2, in downtown Solvang, adjacent to the Viking Beer & Wine Garden. All ages welcome at the party (*must be 21 years or older to enter Viking Beer & Wine Garden*). Concert is free and open to the public; performers donate their time and talent to the community.

**5:30 PM – 10:00 PM: Danish Days Dinner Dance** – Danish-style barbeque followed by dancing and live music by [Area 51](#). Solvang Veterans Memorial Hall, 1745 Mission Drive. Tickets start at \$10.00 per person for the dance portion, *only*. All proceeds support the Solvang Danish Days Foundation. For more information and ticket-buying details, visit [DanishDaysDinnerDance.com](http://DanishDaysDinnerDance.com).

**7:30 PM: “MADS MEN” Fundraising Concert at Solvang Festival Theater** – Two-time Grammy Award-winning Danish violinist, [Mads Tolling](#), performs in an outdoor concert entitled “MADS MEN”, celebrating the instrumental hits from the 1960s “MAD MEN” era. This special Solvang performance is a fundraiser for the Atterdag Village of Solvang Auxiliary, with a portion of proceeds from the concert going towards the new skilled nursing rehabilitation wing of Atterdag Village. Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd Street. For more information and to buy tickets, visit [www.atterdagvillageofsolvang.com](http://www.atterdagvillageofsolvang.com).

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2015**

**2:00 PM: Children’s Parade** – Begins at Atterdag Square (corner of Atterdag Road and Copenhagen Drive) and meanders down Copenhagen to Solvang Park. All children and families are welcome to join this event; no charge to participate, and costumes are encouraged.

**2:45 PM: Danish Days Closing Ceremony** in Solvang Park. Danish Days Maid Mia Andersen closes the festive weekend; concert featuring Danish musicians, [Manne](#), to follow.