

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**FOR OCTOBER 22nd EVENT**

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## **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Music Box Steps Day -- Back Live and In-Person!**

**LOS ANGELES** – You can't keep a local treasure down! On Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 12:00 to 4pm -- following two years of virtual events due to the pandemic -- the Music Box Steps Day festival will once again be held outdoors. The 28<sup>th</sup> annual celebration will take place, as before, at Laurel & Hardy Park, 900 Vendome Street in Silver Lake, just across from the Music Box Steps where the legendary comedy team of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy lugged a piano up an endless staircase in their beloved 1932, Oscar-winning short film *The Music Box*.

This popular free event, organized by the Silver Lake Improvement Association (SLIA), commemorates Laurel & Hardy, their classic film, and this world-famous location smack in the middle of our ultra-hip community. The event is supported by the 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> L.A. City Council Districts, the Mayor's office, Make Music LA, the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, Mack Sennett Studios, MOTA, and other local businesses and residents.

A fun festival for the whole family, Music Box Steps Day features Laurel & Hardy look-alikes, free food, live music, a magic show, educational displays, a fabulous raffle, and multiple screenings of the hilarious, half-hour-long *The Music Box* projected in a tent set up in the park.

Music Box Steps Day is the brainchild of Vincent Brook -- SLIA board member, retired media studies lecturer and author, and lifetime Laurel & Hardy fan -- who was stunned to find that the house he purchased in 1980 with his wife Karen was just a block away from the Steps. "It took a while for the

idea to gestate,” Brook recalls, “but when SLIA, Hollywood Heritage, the Silent Society, and the American Society of Camera Operators joined to have a commemorative plaque placed in the Steps in 1994, I had my aha moment. *The Music Box* is a cinematic treasure. SLIA is proud to keep its memory alive and we’re especially thrilled that it was shot in the heart of Silver Lake. Music Box Steps Day is our way of honoring the comic genius of Laurel & Hardy and reminding local youth, their families and others of this historical jewel in our midst.”

The Steps are featured in tourist books, film buffs from around the world have flocked to see (and set foot on) the famous stairway, and members of the Sons of the Desert (Laurel & Hardy’s international fan club) make regular pilgrimages to the site—and to Music Box Steps Day. Dick Van Dyke, who was close to and mentored by Stan Laurel, came to Music Box Steps Day a few years ago, and the event has attracted fans from throughout the state and the US, and from as far away as England, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Germany—some coming all the way just for this event!

#### About the Silver Lake Improvement Association

SLIA was founded in 1989 and is dedicated to creating and maintaining a clean, safe, and vibrant community environment. Initially focused on crime issues in the immediate area, SLIA over the years has held regular community meetings, sponsored election forums, helped plant over 300 neighborhood trees, co-sponsored the Gateway to Silver Lake and other beautification projects, spearheaded the formation of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, manages the Sunset Triangle Plaza, and, last not least -- with the support of a village of supporters, for close to three decades -- has put on the hugely popular Music Box Steps Day!