

NEWS RELEASE

26th Annual Music Box Steps Day This Year Celebrated Online! Saturday, October 24, 2 - 4 pm

LOS ANGELES – You can't keep a classic comedy team, or its legion of fans, down! The pandemic may have prevented an outdoor celebration of the 26th annual Music Box Steps Day family festival, but not an online version, which with just as much enthusiasm will honor Laurel & Hardy and the famed 133 stairs on Vendome Street in Silver Lake where Stan & Ollie filmed their 1932 Oscar-winning short, *The Music Box*.

On Saturday, October 24, 2020, from 2 - 4 pm, a virtual Music Box Steps Day will be broadcast worldwide on SLIA's web site (silverlakeimprovementassociation.org) and its Facebook page (facebook.com/musicboxstepsday). If you miss the inaugural, the video will still be online for the viewing time of your choice -- and either way, it's free! The presentation was produced by the Silver Lake Improvement Association (SLIA) and actor/entertainer Edward E. Bell, and will feature a special screening of the recently restored version of the ever-hilarious, 29-minute-long *The Music Box*, in which the bungling duo valiantly attempt to deliver a player piano to a home atop a steep hill.

Other attractions include a reprise of last year's on-site filmed recreation of the legendary comedy. Emmy-winning actor and film historian Stan Taffel will provide background information about *The Music Box* and the endless staircase where several other early comedies (and more recent films) also were shot. Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, staircase historian Charles Fleming, and other prominent figures will be zoomed in. And a special highlight, one you won't

want to miss, is a video recording of Dick Van Dyke's appearance at a recent Music Box Steps Day, when the movie, television and stage superstar -- after bounding up and down all 133 steps, at 91 -- paid his respects to his friend and mentor, Stan Laurel.

The Music Box Steps are featured in tourist books, film buffs from around the world have flocked to see (and set foot on) them, 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. The festival has attracted fans from as far away as England, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Germany—some coming all the way just for this event. One advantage this year is that more people than ever, from close by and across the globe, can enjoy Music Box Steps Day from the comfort, and safety, of their own homes!

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. Over the years SLIA has sponsored election forums, contributed to the planting of over 300 neighborhood trees, helped found the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, supervised the Sunset Triangle Plaza, and, last not least, for 26 years and counting—with support from local government, businesses, and individuals—has put on the hugely popular Music Box Steps Day family festival.