POCKET PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS **BUSKERS**

This spring, Pocket Productions will give an exquisite, understated gift to the Columbia community. “Buskers” will extend from March 25 through June 1, and will culminate with a street performance by the SC Philharmonic.  The series features musicians in public places who appear to be busking but take no tips; instead the performers will have a sign that says "please take generously," along with information about this exciting series.  At each of the 10 performances, a QR code and link will lead Columbia pedestrians to a webpage with information about the present installation of "Buskers."  The instrumentalists will play a variety of instruments seldom heard in public places, including accordian, baglama, ballophone, and several stringed instruments. The music will not carry further than 20-30 feet. The series may also include the accompaniment of dance and acrobatics.

Updates at [bit.ly/ColumbiaBuskers](http://www.pocketproductions.org) will provide information about the instrumentalists and hints about the next performance. Locations will include the more central locations on Main Street and in the Congaree Vista, but will also include shops on Harbison Blvd, the Farmers Market at 701 Whaley, and shops within the Rosewood area. This series will expose new regions of Columbia and surrounding areas to the possibilities that would present themselves if busking were legalized throughout the city.

Our series begins on March 25 on Harbison Blvd with Tim Costello, an eclectic musician who plays many instruments such as accordion, toy piano, and the Khaen, an ancient bamboo instrument from Laos, where he studied the instrument in 2010. Tim has busked extensively in Korea, Germany, Czech Republic, and the Carolinas.

Our next installation, March 31, will feature two performers who epitomize the spirit of "Buskers": Wes Joyner and Ryan Shah are talented musicians who play unusual instruments, and will expose the Five Points patrons to a musical repertoire unknown to most Columbia residents.  Though unusual, the music is melodic and ambient, so it will only enrich the locations chosen for the series.  Our performers for this installation will play Middle Eastern melodies on the baglama and tabla.

[Pocket Productions](http://www.pocketproductions.org/) is a non-profit arts company devoted to developing and expanding the arts community in Columbia, SC, by stimulating cooperation between and innovation among local artists and arts organizations. Pocket Productions is supported by the Columbia Music Festival Association, the Knight Foundation, the City of Columbia and Richland County. For more information about Pocket Productions, visit [http://www.pocketproductions.org](http://www.pocketproductions.org/)

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