



Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council

**APPROVAL OF NEW 2025 SPECIAL EVENT, MINDTRAVEL LIVE-TO-HEADPHONES
'SILENT' PIANO CONCERT**

CEQA: Approval of the new 2025 special event would be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under State CEQA Guidelines section 15304(e). The event is a minor temporary use of land in the form of a 'silent' piano concert. This type of temporary event will have negligible or no permanent effect on the environment. (Special Events and Filming Coordinator Austin DeWeese)

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends City Council conduct a public hearing to consider approval of the Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Advisory Commission's (Commission) recommendation to approve inclusion of Impact Level II new special event;

MindTravel Live-to-Headphones 'Silent' Piano Concert south of the Pier on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 and Sunday, October 19, 2025, on the 2025 Special Event Calendar.

Executive Summary:

At its June 3, 2025 meeting, the Commission held a public hearing and recommended Council approve the inclusion of new special event, MindTravel Live-to-Headphones 'Silent' Piano Concert south of the Pier on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 and Sunday, October 19, 2025 on the 2025 Special Events Calendar.

Background:

The Special Events Policy Guide (**Attachment 1**) serves as a comprehensive document for event producers with information on the review and approval process, applicable fees, policies, and Hermosa Beach Municipal Code chapters and sections pertaining to special events. Special events are evaluated based on several factors and categorized as either Impact Level I, II, or III using the Impact Characteristics Matrix in the Special Events Policy Guide. The matrix considers event characteristics to determine the impact level such as the total estimated attendance; the event location; the day and season in which the event would take place; the total number of consecutive event days; and special requests such as reserved parking, amplified sound, etc. The event's impact level determines the application submission deadline and the required level of review and approval which may involve City staff, Commission and/or City Council. New events or Impact Level III events, which are events with the largest impact to the City, require City Council approval. Impact

Level II returning events require Commission approval and Impact Level I returning events are approved by staff.

Past Commission Actions

Meeting Date	Description	Votes
June 3, 2025	Commission recommended approval by the City Council the inclusion of Impact Level II new special event, MindTravel Live-to-Headphones ‘Silent’ Piano Concert, on the 2025 Special Events Calendar.	All Ayes (5-0) (Lange, Pizer Mains, Ellman, Moroney, Horowitz)

Discussion:

The MindTravel Foundation (foundation), established by composer and musician Murray Hidary, offers transformative music experiences, providing access to the healing power of music. The foundation requests approval to hold the MindTravel Live-to-Headphones ‘Silent’ Piano Concert south of the Pier on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 and Sunday, October 19, 2025. The event would include a live ‘silent’ piano concert, in which the sound from the piano transmits to wireless headphones worn by participants, a meditation session, and an audience-driven question-and-answer session. The foundation recommends a donation of \$25 for ages 12 and under and a donation of \$45-\$55 for ages 13 and up (depending on the time of registration) to participate in the event. The foundation would also offer a “pay what you can” option, where participants may donate as little as \$1 to participate. Each participant would be provided with a pair of wireless headphones to experience the live music transmitted from the piano.

Following the review of the event by the Commission at its June 3, 2025 meeting, the foundation has added an additional event component for participants who choose not to donate. Such participants may listen to pre-recorded music through headphones, receive a printed meditation script, and participate in the question-and-answer session.

The foundation anticipates approximately 360 participants. The requested event dates are included on the 2025 Special Events Calendar (**Attachment 2**). Additional event details are included in the MindTravel Live-to-Headphones ‘Silent’ Piano Concert Event Overview (**Attachment 3**).

Pursuant to the California Coastal Commission’s Guidelines for the Exclusion of Temporary Events from Coastal Commission Permit Requirements adopted on May 12, 1993, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission shall only exclude from coastal development permit requirements all temporary events except those which meet all of the following criteria:

- Held between Memorial Day and Labor Day;

- Occupies all or a portion of a sandy beach area; and
- Involves a charge for general public admission or seating where no fee is currently charged for the same use of the area (not including booth or entry fees).

The proposed Impact Level II special event, MindTravel Live-to-Headphones ‘Silent’ Piano Concert, meets all of the aforementioned criteria. One of the requested event dates falls within the Memorial Day to Labor Day timeframe, the event would occupy a portion of a sandy beach, and it would charge general public admission by way of donation to participate in the main event element. If the event is approved, staff would require the event producer to work with the Coastal Commission to determine if a Temporary Event Permit from the Coastal Commission would be required.

General Plan Consistency:

This report and associated recommendation have been evaluated for their consistency with the City’s General Plan. Relevant Policies are listed below:

Governance Element

Goal 3. Community-friendly events.

Policies:

- **3.1 Community-friendly events.** Encourage, permit, and support community group, nonprofit, or business organized events on City property that support physical activity, beach culture, and family-friendly social interactions.
- **3.2 Social and cultural events.** Design and program parks and open space to accommodate unique social and cultural events to foster connectedness and interaction.
- **3.10 Require ADA standards.** Require that all public right-of-ways be designed per Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards by incorporating crosswalks, curb ramps, pedestrian signals, and other components to provide ease of access for disabled persons.

Goal 4. Direct and accessible routes and connections to parks, recreational facilities, and open space are provided.

Policy:

- **4.4 ADA accessible park access.** Install ADA and universally accessible amenities and equipment so that all parks, beach, and trail networks are accessible to all persons.

Goal 5. Small beach town character is reflected throughout Hermosa Beach.

Policy:

- **5.7 Visitor and resident balance.** Recognizing the desire and need to balance visitor-serving and local-serving uses as a key to preserving character and the economic vitality of the community.

Goal 7. The beach offers high quality recreational opportunities and amenities desired by the community.

Policies:

- **7.3 Recreational asset.** Consider and treat the beach as a recreational asset and never as a commercial enterprise.
- **7.5 Designated recreational uses.** Continually evaluate and explore devoting certain portions of the beach to different preferred recreational uses while providing access for all users and meeting the recreation needs of visitors and residents.

Fiscal Impact:

If approved, the estimated event revenue would be \$1,424 to the City's General Fund.

Attachments:

1. Special Events Policy Guide
2. 2025 Special Events Calendar
3. MindTravel Live-to-Headphones 'Silent' Piano Concert Event Overview

Respectfully Submitted by: Austin DeWeese, Special Events and Filming Coordinator

Concur: Lisa Nichols, Community Resources Director

Noted for Fiscal Impact: Henry Chao, Finance Manager

Concur: Brandon Walker, Administrative Services Director

Legal Review: Todd Leishman, Interim City Attorney

Approved: Steve Napolitano, Interim City Manager