

Lost & Found Sound



NPR's ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

THE GREEN STREET MORTUARY BAND
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2003

The Green Street Mortuary Band
Chinatown Funeral Processions in San Francisco

Sunday in San Francisco. The Green Street Mortuary Band winds its way through the busy streets of Chinatown — a Picture Car, a hearse, a stream of mourners trailing behind. Spirit money floats through the air. Cymbals crash, scaring off evil spirits. Onlookers bow their heads in respect as the brass band blows a dirge.

The Green Street Mortuary Band traces its roots back nearly 100 years to the Cathay Chinese Boys Band, the first marching band in Chinatown. For over 50 years this amateur band performed for its community at every big event — Chinese New Year's, the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge, the neighborhood's elaborate funeral processions. Today, Green Street, a union band from the old Italian mortuary in neighboring North Beach continues this Chinatown tradition of a last musical send-off.

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Produced By

THE KITCHEN SISTERS (NIKKI SILVA & DAVIA NELSON)

with Laura Folger • Mixed By Jim McKee



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