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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 9, 2012

**SEUN KUTI & FELA'S EGYPT 80 BRINGS ENERGETIC AFROBEAT TO  
ZELLERBACH HALL ON THURSDAY, APRIL 19 AT 8:00 PM**

**Lobby Talk: This free event will feature Chuy Varela, music director of KCSM radio and special guests at 5:00 p.m. on April 19 on the Zellerbach Hall mezzanine**

**BERKELEY, March 9, 2012**—**Seun Kuti & Fela's Egypt 80** bring the progressive music genre afrobeat to **Zellerbach Hall** on **Thursday, April 19 at 8:00 p.m.** Afrobeat was created by Kuti's legendary father **Fela Kuti** and is an energetic combination of traditional African melodies, percussion and emotional chat vocals. Kuti will perform with a group of 14 musicians, including percussion, brass and electric bass and guitar, many of which were in his father's original ensemble. Kuti is known for his dual role as both a talented musician and an eager activist, and his ability to seamlessly blend the two halves together. A charismatic artist, Kuti's previous performances exude "a legacy, a believe system and a strength of will that stretches across time and continents" (*LA Times*).

**Oluseun Anikulapo Kuti**, commonly known as **Seun Kuti**, was born in Nigeria to the legendary afrobeat pioneer Fela Kuti. Kuti both sings and plays the saxophone and started touring with his father and his band at the age of nine. After his father's death in 1997 he took over leadership at the young age of 14. He continues to revere his father's work by performing some of original pieces, but has his own developed his own idiosyncratic style. His recent album *From Africa With Fury, Rise* (2011) is full of funky jazzy energy, breakneck tempos and a uniquely exciting mood. The album is recorded live in Rio, Brazil, and produced by celebrated artists Brian Eno and John Reynolds. Kuti is currently lives in Lago, Nigaria between tours to the US and Europe.

A prominent activist Kuti combines music and his spokespersonship. Following in his father's footsteps Kuti uses his lyrics and performances to respond to government corruption and negligence across Africa. He is inspired by contemporary issues of his homeland saying "What inspires me is

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the time I live in” and uses to his music to unite the younger generation. “In Africa today, most people are struggling in silence... I want to inspire people to want things to change.”

### TICKET INFORMATION

Ticket prices for **Seun Kuti & Fela's Egypt 80** on **April 19** at **8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** range from **\$20.00-\$58.00** and are subject to change. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5.00 discount (Special Events excluded). For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior, and community rush tickets. For a complete listing of discounts <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Bank of America for their major support of the Season.

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### CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE: CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Thursday, April 19 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

*World Stage*

**Seun Kuti**, vocals saxophone

**Fela's Egypt 80**

**Program:** Bringing his own blend of afrobeat music, singer Seun Kuti leads his father's band, Fela's Egypt 80, for one night of original music.

**Tickets:** **\$20.00-\$58.00**, subject to change, and are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org); and at the door.

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