

Saturday, November 24, 2007, 11am  
 Saturday, November 24, 2007, 2pm  
 Sunday, November 25, 2007, 3pm  
 Zellerbach Hall

## Dan Zanes and Friends



Arthur Elgort

### featuring

Dan Zanes	<i>guitar, vocals</i>
Colin Brooks	<i>drums</i>
Sonia de los Santos	<i>guitar, vocals</i>
John Foti	<i>accordion</i>
Saskia Lane	<i>bass</i>
Elena Moon Park	<i>violin</i>
Rankin Don (a.k.a. Father Goose)	<i>vocals</i>

Worldwide Tour Management: Pomegranate Arts

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Cal Performances' 2007–2008 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank.



Anna Williams

Yes, these days I have a vision of a new and improved America! A singing, dancing, free-wheeling, shaking, inclusive America. Someone once asked me “Dan, how can we sing ‘Cock-a-doodle-doo’ when there are all these crazy things happening in the world?” That’s just it! That’s why we sing! It restores our spirits and gives us hope for the future. It gives us a sense of life’s best possibilities. When we make music together, we share our stories. We welcome each other into our lives. We give our children new ideas for social living and in return they show us how to dance like bears, or birds, or ice cream cones. And we have fun...unbelievable fun.

I love being in the world of families, because these are the people (from lack of sleep perhaps) who seem most likely to step into the unknown—and spontaneous casual music-making is, for most people, the unknown. I can’t say that it won’t feel a little awkward the first time someone suggests to dinner guests that they all sing “I’ve Been Working on the Railroad” before the meal, but I can guarantee that it will be memorable and probably exciting. The first time family and friends sing together in any capacity new traditions are made, bonds are created, spirits are lifted and the world suddenly becomes a more musical and peaceful place.

Thank you for joining us today. It may look at first like a show or a performance with a band and an audience, but in truth, we’re all in it together. Think of it as a house party or family reunion, or neighborhood block party. Some of us have instruments but everyone has a voice or dancing feet or clapping hands. This is our day together, and when the house lights go up and we all head on down the road, let’s be sure to make it a musical one!

Love,  
 Dan

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

**I**T IS with great pleasure and anticipation that we’ve tuned up our instruments and warmed up our voices in your city today. Thank you for coming out to join us in the festivities! Since our gathering is a musical one I have some musings on the subject....

When my daughter was born, I spent quite a while trying to decide what song she would first hear when she came home from the hospital. The first song in her life! What record would I play for her? I had been playing guitar and singing since I was 8 years old, and yet it never occurred to me that I could sing her that first song myself. Although we ended up listening to some great recorded music that day (The Melodians, a Jamaican rocksteady vocal trio, just fantastic), lately I’ve been considering the place where the recordings end and the soulful homemade singing and playing can begin.

Here are two things you should know right off about **Dan Zanes** (*guitar, vocals*), two things that set him apart from the huge and festive field of people who have in the past few years begun making music for families and people of all ages in a way that is, frankly, changing the face of America, or the sound of it, at least. First, he is making homemade family music and encouraging similar behaviors in friends and neighbors. Second, he is the guy who is always interested in singing along with people, people everywhere. Which brings us to his mission, if you can call it a mission: Dan is introducing his musical friends to his neighborhood friends and then showing everybody not just that they, yes, can play together but that they can also feel pretty good while doing so. In this sense, Dan is a 21st century version of the guy who in the old days used to conduct the town band from the gazebo, though in lieu of a gazebo he's playing places like Carnegie Hall and the Melbourne International Arts Festival, where no matter how you say it, good music is good. He is a ringmaster, introducing new songs and reconnecting people to songs that have always been there, and still are—it's just that people forgot about them.

For the record, Dan Zanes was born in Exeter, New Hampshire, in 1961. He was a member of the Del Fuegos from the beginning to the end of the 1980s, and in 1994, he released a solo CD, *Cool Down Time*, shortly after which he moved to Brooklyn, New York, with his wife and daughter, where he then released *Rocket Ship Beach* (2000), an immediate hit with families around America, as well as with *The New York Times Magazine*, which said, "Zanes's kids music works because it is not kids music; it's just music—music that's unsanitized, unpasteurized, that's organic even." His next CD, *Family Dance* (2001), comprises songs that are difficult not to dance to, and features Loudon Wainwright III and Roseanne Cash and a lot of dancing that you can't actually see but you can imagine. Next in the Festival Five family series came *Night Time!* (2002)—featuring collaborations with Aimee Mann and Lou Reed—followed by the Grammy Award-nominated *House Party* (2003), a rambunctious 20-song collection that includes Deborah Harry, Bob Weir and Philip Glass, as well as the Rubí Theater Company and

Rankin Don (a.k.a. Father Goose). *Sea Music*, a collection of maritime songs that was the first CD in the Festival Five Folk Series, and was cited in *Rolling Stone's* Hot Issue in the category of Hot Maritime Sounds. The next CD in the Folk Series—*Parades and Panoramas: 25 Songs Collected by Carl Sandburg for the American Songbag*—is the disk on which Dan's scruffy troupe of musicians dragged the poet's 1927 collection of songs kicking and screaming into this century, with traditional instruments, with tuba-driven electric guitars, with whatever it takes.

The 2007 Grammy Award-winner for Best Musical Album for Children, *Catch That Train!*, is the latest in the Family Series (co-released by Starbucks), and is the one CD in America today that brings together the Kronos Quartet, the Blind Boys of Alabama, Father Goose, Dan's mother-in-law and the children of South Africa's Agape Orphanage to sing Zulu folk songs, an old labor organizing tune, a song about the joys of farming the English countryside and, of course, a few train songs, all in an instrumental mix that includes highlights *cuatros* and lap steels and does not in any way discourage the use of trombone. As usual, it's all in one book-length, lyrics- and chord-filled package.

And speaking of books, Dan is the author of two picture book collaborations with artist Donald Saaf, *Jump Up!* and *Hello Hello* (Little, Brown), and he can be seen in the Dan Zanes and Friends concert video and DVD, entitled *All Around the Kitchen!*, recorded in 2005 at the Knitting Factory, in New York City. Lately, Dan has been spending his spare time with Spanish dictionaries, listening to *salsa* or *meringue* or *norteño* or anything along those lines.

**Colin Brooks** (*drums*) started out playing piano at the age of 5. By age 7, he was jamming with his father, a self-taught electric guitar player, on the drums. By age 14, he was drumming in a punk rock band with some friends in Little Rock, Arkansas, called the Numbskulz. After playing around the United States with the Numbskulz and several other Little Rock-based bands (Substance, 2 Minutes Hate, ho-hum and The Big Cats), he headed for New York City to join Skeleton Key.

After that band toured Europe with Primus, Colin was offered the drum seat with New Zealand singer Bic Runga, with whom he toured Australia and New Zealand. Upon returning to New York, he began playing with local singers Serena Jost and Dana Fuchs, while drumming on jingles and playing in the Off-Broadway musical *Betty Rules*. He also joined the Brooklyn-based band Sea Ray. Sea Ray toured the United States and Canada extensively and played many New York area shows. The group disbanded in January 2005. Colin next went to Montreal to record with The Stills. His drumming can be heard on their latest album, *Without Feathers*. He has most recently finished an album with his long-time band in Little Rock, The Big Cats. For online information, visit [maxrecordings.com](http://maxrecordings.com) and [searaymusic.com](http://searaymusic.com).

**Sonia de Los Santos** (*guitar, vocals*) was born in Monterrey, Mexico. During high school, Sonia received various awards for her appearance as a composer and interpreter of the song "Dos Niñas Más" at the National Festival de la Canción of the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores in Monterrey. Her acting career began with national tours of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. In 2000, she joined the rock band Esphera as lead singer. In 2001, Sonia played a major role in writing the music for Esphera's debut album, *Reflection*. In 2002, Sonia joined Shot, a new pop group from Monterrey. This new group shared credits with recognized Mexican artists in the EXA FM concert at the Auditorio Coca-Cola. In the last few years, Sonia has appeared in the leading roles of *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Auntie Mame* and *A Chorus Line*, and has earned a degree in communications and mass media. She is currently starring as the lead singer in the rock 'n' roll show *Revolution* at the Joyce Theater in New York City.

Born in West Caldwell, New Jersey, **John Foti's** (*accordion*) first musical experience was figuring out the *Sesame Street* theme song at a young age. Inspired by his father and older sister, he went on to take piano lessons through college—even when some kids said it "wasn't cool" to play piano. John thought it was cool and kept playing. Speaking of cool, John is thrilled to be a part of Dan Zanes and

Friends, playing perhaps the coolest instrument this side of the Mississippi—the accordion! His hobbies include thinking, writing music and poetry, sleeping, worrying about what the Yankees score is, running and watching Jim Henson's *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas*. You can say hello to John at [www.myspace.com/johnfoti](http://www.myspace.com/johnfoti).

Born and raised in San Francisco, **Saskia Lane** (*bass*) picked up her first stringed instrument at the age of four: the violin. Quickly realizing that the fiddle was far too small for such a big personality, Saskia switched to the stand-up bass the day she turned 11. Though she could not yet lift it without help, she embarked on intensive course of study and has been at it ever since. In 1997, she jumped a train to New York City where she earned her master's degree in double-bass performance from The Juilliard School. The Manhattan-based musician performs throughout the tri-state area with a variety jazz, pop and classical artists. Saskia has also been active in education and outreach, working as a teaching artist for the 92nd Street Y and performing in the Carnegie Hall Neighborhood Concert Series. Saskia's television credits include a national commercial for Chili's Restaurants and appearances on the Discovery Channel, the Food Network, Fuse TV and *CBS Evening News*, and can be seen in the movie *Mona Lisa Smiles*, featuring Julia Roberts. Her discography includes recordings with Nicole Paiement, featuring the work of Lou Harrison (New Albion Records); the Gotham Ensemble (Albany Records), as well as three albums and a concert DVD (Eastway Records) with her critically acclaimed cocktail pop quartet, The Lascivious Biddies.

Hailing from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, **Elena Moon Park** (*violin*) began playing the violin and dancing at a young age. She played classical music for many years, until college drew her attention to traveling to far off places, going on long hiking trips, learning music and dance from other countries and studying American history. After her adventures, she was anxious to play the violin again and make fun, spontaneous music with many different musicians. Elena lived in the hills of Tennessee and the flatlands of Chicago before proudly calling

## About the Artists

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Brooklyn, New York, her home. Her interests include dancing, singing, playing the ukelele, helping to achieve equitable development in urban America, supporting the arts, and Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come." She is very excited to be playing with Dan Zanes and Friends.

**Rankin Don (a.k.a Father Goose)** (*vocals*) recalls that when he was a young boy his sister was insistent that he should be involved with music. Being too young to go to the clubs and *fêtes*, his first experiences and interactions with music was using a mic and singing covers. He was already an underground superstar in Jamaica and Brooklyn when Notorious Bugs from Gyasi Record Label urged him to record for the mainstream. Soon after, he recorded the big hit "Baddest DJ," which sold over 100,000 copies in the United States and abroad. A year after, the "Real McCoy," was released and sold over 250,000 copies. He also recorded "The Big Race" with Roundhead, Screechie Don, General B and Baja Jedd, and has performed with the best of the best, including Freddie McGregor, Gregory Isaacs, 2002 Grammy Award nominee Beres Hammond and past Grammy-winners Shabba Ranks, Shaggy and Beenie Man. He is now a producer for Rock Tower Studios, known for its rich history in the foundation of reggae music. In his other life as Father Goose, he appears on all CD releases by Dan Zanes and Friends.

### FOR DAN ZANES AND FRIENDS

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*Special Thanks to Dave Shaby, Mary Schofield, and all our friends at Bright Horizons Family Solutions, [www.brighthorizons.com](http://www.brighthorizons.com). You can see more of Dan on the Disney Channel.*

*Recordings by Dan Zanes and Friends are produced by Festival Five Records. For more information on Dan Zanes and Friends including upcoming tour dates, and to purchase CDs, the All Around the Kitchen DVD and T-shirts, please visit [www.danzanes.com](http://www.danzanes.com).*