

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS BALINESE NATIONAL TREASURE ÇUDAMANI
IN *ODALAN BALI: AN OFFERING OF MUSIC AND DANCE*
FRIDAY, APRIL 1 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

SCHOOLTIME: SPECIAL 1-HOUR SHOW FOR STUDENTS, FRIDAY, APRIL 1 AT 11:00 A.M.

**Sightlines: Pre-performance talk with the artists, moderated by Wayne Vitale, director of
Gamelan Sekar Jaya**

BERKELEY, March 1, 2005 – Making its Bay Area debut, **Çudamani** (pronounced SOOD-a-mani) brings to life the Balinese universe of mythology and history through traditional music and dance **Friday, April 1 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. The program, *Odalan Bali: An Offering of Music and Dance* (an *odalan* is a temple ceremony that commemorates the beginning of a life), features dazzling dancers, glittering costumes and the shimmering polyrhythms of *gamelan* music. Çudamani will perform the revered *legong*, an ancient dance style that celebrates youthful femininity, wearing sacred *susuhunan* headdresses, ornate and colorful representations of Balinese spiritual entities. The troupe's repertoire also features the enormously popular *kebyar*, a genre that represents the passions of a young man, though it is usually performed by a young woman, as well as original choreography and compositions by its 25 members.

Çudamani will give a *SchoolTime* performance for Bay Area students **Friday, April 1 at 11:00 a.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Tickets available in advance only. A free *Sightlines* talk will be given by Wayne Vitale on Friday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Hailed as “superbly coordinated and . . .compellingly entertaining” (*Los Angeles Times*), Çudamani delighted audiences at their U.S. debut in 2002 at the World Festival of Sacred Music in Los Angeles, as well as around the world. The name Çudamani has many meanings including the third eye of Shiva that is the destroyer of ignorance; the jewel that decorates the forehead or hair of a high priest or sacred being; or a symbol of sincerity, purity and whole-heartedness of intention. The company's new production, *Odalan Bali: An Offering of Music and Dance*, illustrates the cycles of Balinese life beginning with the dawning of a new day, through myriad

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daily activities of men and women from working to flirting, concluding with prayers and offerings to the deities resulting in harmony and balance at sundown.

Gamelan, a name that can be applied to the percussive gong-chime music of Indonesia and to the orchestras that play it, is a living tradition in Bali; the music and ceremonial dances are tightly intertwined with the religious and communal practices of daily life. Most orchestras are based in villages, and each orchestra's approach reflects the unique traditions of its particular location. Orchestras regularly vie for honors for themselves and their communities in competitions that often resemble huge sporting events—complete with thousands of boisterous and partisan fans.

Çudamani is both a part of and departure from the prevailing gamelan culture. The typical orchestra is a contingent of local amateur musicians that hews to a strictly traditional repertoire. Çudamani in contrast is a professional ensemble with members from all over Bali who write, choreograph and perform original, as well as classical, works. The troupe is based in Pengosekan in the Ubud province of Bali, a village famous for its community of painters, weavers and musicians. The group's origins go back to the 1970s and the after-school activity of the town's children who would meet every afternoon to play music in the village pavilion. This informal gathering of independent-minded youngsters gradually developed into an organization dedicated to preserving and performing traditional Balinese music and dance.

As time went on, the young music makers of Pengosekan became increasingly troubled by the tourist-driven nature of gamelan performance. Orchestras that perform only for tourists have been luring the best young musicians—including those from Pengosekan —into a system that is banalizing traditional music and moving gamelan away from its connection with the religious and social life of the villages.

In 1997, brothers **Dewa Putu Berata**, Çudamani's current artistic director, and **Dewa Ketut Alit**, one of Bali's finest composers, and others from Pengosekan, brought together a number of talented and promising young people from all over Bali to form a *sanggar*, or family temple, called Sanggar Çudamani, initially conceiving of the enterprise as a communal alternative

to the professional groups formed to entertain tourists. The *sanggar* rapidly evolved into a cultural and educational center—a buzzing complex of studios, classes, workshops, and rehearsal space for several performance groups. Today, Çudamani's members see themselves as a community of leaders who, through their music and dance, positively contribute to the artistic, cultural and political life of their village. Çudamani is one of the few organizations that teach gamelon to girls, a realm that was until recently only open to men.

The 25 members of Çudamani range in age from 18 to 35, and many have graduated from Sekolah Tinggi Seni Indonesia, College of Performing Arts, in Denpasar. Their talent, high artistic standards, and sincere dedication to the preservation and promulgation of traditional culture has quickly endeared them to the Balinese public and is making them a favorite of international audiences as well. In addition to touring the United States, Çudamani has performed across Italy and Greece including the 2003 Cultural Olympiad in Greece. The company will perform at the World EXPO in Aichi, Japan, in August of 2005.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Çudamani** on **Friday, April 1** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$24.00, \$34.00, and \$46.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, April 1 at 11:00 a.m.

SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

Çudamani

Odalan Bali: An Offering of Music and Dance

Program: In a one-hour performance for school children, Çudamani will perform an excerpt from *Odalan Bali: An Offering of Music and Dance*.

Tickets: \$3.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-1082. *SchoolTime* performances are open to students in grades 2 through 12 in Bay Area public and private schools. Supplemental study guides for the classroom are provided. For more information about the *SchoolTime* program, contact the *SchoolTime* coordinator at Cal Performances by email at eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu, or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

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Friday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m.

SIGHTLINES

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Pre-performance talk by the artists, moderated by Wayne Vitale, director of Gamelan Sekar Jaya. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. These events are free to ticketholders.

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Friday, April 1 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

World Stage

Çudamani

Odalan Bali: An Offering of Music and Dance

Program: The 25-member ensemble of musicians and dancers specializing in the performing arts of Bali, Indonesia will perform *Odalan Bali: An Offering of Music and Dance*,

Tickets: \$24.00, \$34.00, and \$46.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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