

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
DAN ZANES & FRIENDS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 IN ZELLERBACH HALL

“The kids music that Dan Zanes is making works because it's not kids music;
it's just music – music that is unsanitized, unpasteurized...cool.”

-- *New York Magazine*

BERKELEY, November 12, 2004 – Dan Zanes & Friends return to Cal Performances after their vibrant, hugely successful engagements last year that had both children and adults dancing in the aisles. This year, music-loving, kid-friendly folks can enjoy **Dan Zanes'** brand of rock and folk in two performances on **Sunday, December 12** at **11:00 a.m.** and **3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Formerly the lead singer of alternative '80s rock band the Del Fuegos, Dan Zanes has found a second calling creating “the happiest concert vibe since Woodstock - with a lot less drugs and mud” (*New York Magazine*).

Zanes and his spirited group of Brooklyn-based musicians perform updated versions of traditional American folk songs, dance classics, globally-influenced jams and an ever-increasing number of originals. **Colin Brooks** (percussion), **Barbara Brousal** (guitar, mandolin, vocals), **Cynthia Hopkins** (accordion, saw, vocals), **Yoshi Waki** (bass), and rapper **Rankin' Don** (a.k.a. Father Goose) join Zanes (lead vocals, mandolin, banjo, electric guitar) on stage.

DAN ZANES

Born in 1961 in Exeter, New Hampshire, **Dan Zanes** first picked up a guitar when he was eight and began taking Leadbelly records out of the public library as soon as he was old enough to sign his name. He was in a series of bands throughout high school and founded the Del Fuegos in 1981 with Tom Lloyd. As a Del Fuego, Zanes made several records—*The Longest Day* (1984), *Boston, Mass* (1985), *Stand Up* (1987), and *Smoking in the Fields* (1989)—and the band garnered considerable acclaim in the rock world. *Rolling Stone* named the Del Fuegos the best new band of 1984. However, by 1991 the Del Fuegos had run its course.

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Zanes began playing music with a group of fathers he met on West Village playgrounds, and under the name the Wonderland String Band the dads played gigs at parks and parties. Eventually Zanes produced a tape of the band which was a hit locally—i.e., on the neighborhood playgrounds where he and his daughter played—and Zanes realized that he liked making music that families could enjoy together, as opposed to music that is just for kids or just for adults.

Zanes added female members to the band and renamed it the Rocket Ship Revue, and began making full-fledged homemade recordings, enlisting the help of people he'd met when he was a Del Fuego—Sheryl Crow, Suzanne Vega, and Simon Kirke (the drummer for Bad Company), among others. The resulting CD, *Rocket Ship Beach*, released in 2000, was a hit. Zanes' second CD, *Family Dance*, released in 2001, enlisted the help of Loudon Wainwright III, Sandra Bernhard and Roseanne Cash. And a third, *Night Time!* (2002), boasted an even longer list of collaborators: Aimee Mann, Lou Reed, former X frontman John Doe, and Dar Williams contributed originals and familiar songs such as Louis Armstrong's *It's a Wonderful World* and Woody Guthrie's *So Long, It's Been Good to Know Yuh*, and the traditional melody *Wild Mountain Thyme*. "This rock veteran reinvents children's music," writes the *Nashville Scene*, "and parents everywhere are thankful."

In the fall of 2003 Dan Zanes & Friends released their fourth CD, *House Party*, an album brimming with songs and collaborators including Grateful Dead legend Bob Weir, Angelique Kidjo, Debbie Harry, and Philip Glass. The most recent CD *Sea Music*, released in April 2004, includes *Farewell Nova Scotia*, a call-and-response work song; *Cape Cod Girls* (with lead vocal by the deep-voiced Rankin' Don, a.k.a. Father Goose); *Sloop John B*, the traditional Bahamian tune made famous by the Beach Boys in the 1960s; and *All For Me Grog*, lead by an 11-year-old Sam Sullivan over an unruly chorus.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Dan Zanes & Friends** on **Sunday, December 12** at **11:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$24.00**. Both performances are Family Fare shows: children 16 and under receive a 50% discount. 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).

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The *San Francisco Chronicle* is a season sponsor of Cal Performances; *San Francisco* magazine and Classical 102.1 KDFC are season media sponsors of the 2004/05 performing arts season.

Cal Performances' 2004/2005 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Sunday, December 12 at 11:00 a.m. [FF]
& 3:00 p.m. [FF]**

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

Family Fare

Dan Zanes & Friends

Program: Dan Zanes, former lead singer of the rock band the Del Fuegos, treats all ages to hip, updated versions of children's classics as well as his own eclectic material in two afternoon concerts.

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