

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**JAZZ GREATS**  
**PAQUITO D'RIVERA & THE ASSAD BROTHERS**  
**RAISE THE TEMPERATURE AT CAL PERFORMANCES WITH A SCORCHING LATIN SHOW**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 27 AT 8:00 P.M.**  
**IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**BERKELEY, December 16, 2004** – Cuban-born **Paquito d’Rivera**, widely considered one of the great jazz geniuses of our time, will be joined by virtuoso Brazilian guitarists **Sèrgio and Odair Assad** at Cal Performances on **Thursday, January 27 at 8 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall**. Their performances together display the exuberant spirit and scorching musical technique that has earned them reputations as three of today’s most innovative, interesting musicians in the world of Latin music. Their Cal Performances program, *Dances from the New World*, includes Latin and Latin-inspired compositions by 18 different composers including *Afro* by Paquito d’Rivera, *Milonga per tre* by Astor Piazzolla, *Hoedown* from *Rodeo* by Aaron Copeland, and *Mangabeira* by Sergio Assad.

**PAQUITO D’RIVERA**

Paquito d’Rivera was born in Cuba in 1953. His father, also a musician, sold instruments, books and musical accessories in Havana where he mixed with many of Cuba’s best musicians. It was not unusual for the young Paquito to see Cachao, Arturo “Chico” O’Farrill, Bebo Valsez, and others in his home. A child prodigy, he began his own professional career playing both the clarinet and the saxophone with the Cuban National Symphony Orchestra before he was 10 years old.

A restless musical genius, Mr. d’Rivera formed and performed with various musical ensembles as a teenager and became one of the founding members of the Orquesta Cubana de Musica Moderna, which he subsequently conducted for two years. In the 1970s he was a founding member and co-director of the innovative musical group Irakere, whose explosive mixture of jazz, rock, classical and traditional Cuban music had never been heard before. The group toured extensively throughout America and Europe, won several Grammy nominations and a Grammy Award. In 1981, d’Rivera sought asylum in the United States.

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In addition to his much-celebrated performing and recording career, Paquito d’Rivera has gained a reputation as an accomplished composer. In 2002 he was commissioned by the National Symphony Orchestra and the Rotterdam Philharmonic to write a concerto for the flutist Marina Piccinini. *The Washington Post* called its premier at the Kennedy Center a “dazzling work [which] reveals d’Rivera’s sophistication as a composer.”

Most recently Mr. d’Rivera won the NEA Jazz Masters 2005 Award, which follows his 2004 award from the Jazz Journalists Association as Clarinetist of the Year. In 2003 he received a Doctorate Honoris Causa in Music from the Berklee School of Music. He has also received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to Latin Music, along with Dizzy Gillespie and Gato Barbieri. Mr. d’Rivera has won six Grammy Awards and made history for being the first artist to win Latin Grammy Awards in both the Classical and Latin Jazz categories. His autobiography *My Sax Life* was published in Spain and is currently being translated into English, to be published by Northwestern University Press this spring.

### **THE ASSAD BROTHERS**

The Brazilian-born Assad brothers, Sérgio and Odair, are known for their impeccable musical union, their breadth of repertoire and their varied collaborations with artists including Yo-Yo Ma, Dawn Upshaw, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and Gidon Kremer. They have played a major role in reviving contemporary music for guitar duo and their virtuosity has inspired a wide range of composers such as Astor Piazzolla, Terry Riley, Marios Nobre and Jorge Morel to write music for them. *The Los Angeles Times* wrote of their playing, “Listening to the Assad Brothers is a bit like hearing four hands playing one large guitar. [Their] interaction is so precise, so perfectly synchronized, that it reaches far beyond musical partnership into a kind of creative symbiosis.”

The Assads began studying guitar together as children and went on to study for seven years with Monina Tavora, a disciple of Andres Segovia. Their international career began in 1979 at the young artists competition in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. Since then they have toured and recorded extensively. In 2001 *Sérgio and Odair Assad Play Piazzolla* won a Latin Grammy Award. In an interview for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Sérgio Assad said, “I believe we were always meant to be a team right from the first time we picked up our guitars. We began playing music at the exact same time, we always studied with the same teachers and learned the same music and techniques. Such interaction can only really happen with brothers, because we shared

every aspect of our musical education together.” Now based in Brussels and Chicago (where Sérgio teaches at Roosevelt University’s Chicago College of Performing Arts) the brothers continue to perform in Asia, Europe, the United States and their native Brazil.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Paquito d’Rivera & The Assads** on **Thursday, January 27** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$22.00, \$30.00, and \$42.00**. 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](http://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](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

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Cal Performances’ 2004/2005 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Thursday, January 27 at 8:00 pm**

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

*World Stage*

Paquito d'Rivera, *clarinet*

Sérgio and Odair Assad, *guitars*

**Program:**

*Dances from The New World*

P. d'Rivera	<i>Afro</i>
A. Villoldo	<i>El Choclo</i>
A. Barroso	<i>Aquarela do Brasil</i>
R. Guerra	<i>Triálogo</i>
E. Grenet	<i>Drume Negrita</i>
P. d'Rivera	<i>Dizziness</i>
E. Lecuona	<i>Conga de la Media Noche</i>
H. Villa-Lobos	<i>Miudinho from Bachianas Brasileiras No. 4</i>
A. Piazzolla	<i>Milonga per tre</i>
A. Ginastera	<i>Malambo</i>

INTERMISSION

E. Gismonti	<i>Baiao Malandro</i>
A. Copland	<i>Hoedown from Rodeo</i>
S. Assad	<i>Mangabeira</i>
A. Lauro	<i>Vals No. 3</i>
B. de Nieve	<i>Vete de mi</i>
A. Barrios	<i>Danza Paraguaya</i>
H. Pascoal	<i>O Ovo/Bebe</i>
A. Ramirez	<i>Alfonsina y el mar</i>
Pixinguinha	<i>Um a zero</i>

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