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**SINGERS MARIA DEL MAR BONET AND MÔNICA SALMASO BRING A  
DOUBLE-BILL OF SUN-DRENCHED SOUNDS TO CAL PERFORMANCES  
SATURDAY, MARCH 11 AT 8:00 P.M.**

**BERKELEY, February 2, 2006** – Spanish **Maria del Mar Bonet** and Brazilian **Mônica Salmaso** will turn up the heat in Zellerbach Hall when the two celebrated singers take to the stage in a fiery double bill on **Saturday, March 11 at 8:00 p.m.** The singers may hail from lands an ocean apart, but they both share breathtaking vocal gifts and a passion for the music of their respective peoples. Their appearance is part of **Celebración de las Culturas de Iberoamérica**, Cal Performances’ programming initiative to bring the performing arts of Latin America, Spain and the Caribbean to Bay Area audiences.

Renowned worldwide for her emotional, artful interpretation of traditional Mediterranean music, the famed Catalan singer **Maria del Mar Bonet** has been an important interpreter of the entire Mediterranean region’s music since her debut in the late 1960s. Dubbed “the great voice of the Mediterranean” by the Spanish magazine *Ronda Iberia*, del Mar Bonet will present music spanning her entire artistic career, accompanied by the Catalan guitarists **Feliu Gasull** and **Javier Mas**. “Equipped with a velvety, lithe voice and a classical edge, [del Mar Bonet’s] music defies any folk or world-music categorization” (*San Jose Mercury News*).

The arresting music sung by balladeer **Mônica Salmaso** comes deep from within the Brazilian singer’s soul. The recipient of many awards and veteran of countless recording sessions with noted Brazilian artists, including Edu Lobo, Eduardo Gudin, José Miguel Wisnik, and the Jazz Symphonic Orchestra of São Paulo, Salmaso is known for a voice that is simultaneously sweet and penetrating, “quietly lustrous and sustained, suffusing each liquid note with languid secrets” (*The New York Times*).

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## MARIA DEL MAR BONET

Born on the island of Majorca, **Maria del Mar Bonet** learned traditional Balearic songs as a child and came to Barcelona in 1967 to study pottery. She soon changed art forms, singing with *Els Setze Jutges*, a collective that supported Catalan music and culture. The Franco regime, as part of its suppression of the Catalan language, forbade del Mar Bonet from singing one of her most popular songs, *Que volen aquesta gent?* (“What do these people expect?”). She chose, instead, to sing the music of her homeland abroad, in France, Denmark and England, and her fame grew. When the Spanish ban on the Catalan language was lifted upon Franco’s death in 1975, she resumed performing in Catalunya and annually sings a summer concert in Barcelona’s Plaça del Rei. She has added to her repertoire the music of many other Mediterranean lands, including North Africa, Syria, Turkey, and Sicily.

Del Mar Bonet has collaborated with an international array of artists, including Jacques Denjean of France, Mikis Theodorakis of Greece, Milton Nascimento of Brazil, Nacho Duato of Spain, Feliu Gasull from Catalan, Zülfi Livanelli from Turkey, Lucilla Galeazzi, from Italy and Maria Farandouri from Greece. The desire to perform in other lands and to collaborate with other talented artists is in del Mar Bonet’s blood: “We people of the Mediterranean have always been great travelers,” she explained.

Del Mar Bonet’s discography includes 2004’s *Amic Amat*, with an eclectic mix of Catalan and Turkish songs (with one Bruce Springsteen song in the mix); 2004’s *Raixà*, a compilation of 25 live concert performances; 1999’s *Cavall de Foc*, which features 12 traditional Mediterranean songs; and 1998’s *El Cor del Temps*, for which she toured South America. Del Mar Bonet has appeared at many festivals, including the Edinburgh Festival, where *The Scotsman* called her “one of Europe’s—possibly the world’s—major voices.” Other festivals include Portugal’s Cantiga do Maio, Italy’s Festival Donnes in Musica and the Festival Grec in Barcelona. She has been awarded the Cross of San Jordi, Catalunya’s highest honor.

Catalan Guitarists **Feliu Gasull** and **Javier Mas** both appear with Maria del Mar Bonet on her album *Raixà*. Gasull, born in 1959, studied at the Music Conservatory of Geneva, Switzerland, and divides his time between performing and composing music. He released a self-

titled album in early 2005 on the La Ma de Guido label. Gasull has performed with Maria del Mar Bonet for over 20 years. Mas counts rock and blues musicians among his early influences. He has appeared or recorded with many notable musicians, including Carlos Santana, Lluís Coloma and Jordi Rallo, He performed with Pedro Javier Gonzalez on the Catalan singer Manolo Garcia's 2004 album, *Para que no se duerman mis sentidos*.

### **MÔNICA SALMASO**

The 1999 winner of El Dorado prize for Best Singer in Brazil, **Mônica Salmaso** has been called “quintessentially Brazilian” (*The New York Times*) and “an artist to be watched” (*Los Angeles Times*). Born in São Paulo in 1971, she studied at the Santa Marcelina University there and made her recording debut on the album *Canções de Ninar* by Paulo Tatit and Sandra Peres, which won Brazil's 1995 Prêmio Sharp award for Best Children's Record. In 1995, she recorded *Afro-Sambas*, a voice and guitar album arranged and produced by Brazilian guitarist Paulo Bellinati, which garnered her nomination for the 1997 Prêmio Sharp award for Best New Singer.

Salmaso's first solo CD, 1998's *Trampolim*, features some of the most creative musicians in Brazilian contemporary music, including Nana Vasconcelos, Teco Cardoso and Paulo Bellinati. *The New York Times* described the album as “pensive pop as only Brazilians can make it,” and raved that “her breathy, melting voice is set against just a handful of instruments at a time, making the melodies seem even more cherished.” *Iaiá*, her latest CD released in 2004, contains 13 tracks ranging from sly sambas to bittersweet ballads. “She has, from the outset of her career, possessed a voice with a remarkable clarity, which is matched by [her] formidable interpretive gift” (*Billboard*).

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Maria del Mar Bonet** and **Mônica Salmaso** on **Saturday, March 11 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$22.00, \$30.00 and \$40.00**. 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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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Saturday, March 11 at 8:00 p.m.**

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

*World Stage*

**Maria del Mar Bonet**, singer

With **Feliu Gasull** and **Javier Mas**, guitars

**Mônica Salmaso**, singer

**Program:** Spanish Maria del Mar Bonet and Brazilian Mônica Salmaso will turn up the heat in Zellerbach Hall when the two celebrated singers take to the stage in a memorable double bill.

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