FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 17, 2007

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
BALLET FLAMENCO SARA BARAS’S BAY AREA PREMIERE OF SABORES
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25
AT ZELLERBACH HALL

BERKELEY, January 17, 2007—Dancing a fine line between exquisite and raw, the passionate and powerful Sara Baras returns with her company, Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras, to Berkeley’s Zellerbach Hall on Saturday, February 24 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m. For two evenings, Baras will perform the Bay Area premiere of her latest creation, Sabores (Flavors). Known throughout Spain as a superstar flamenco dancer, Baras has been honored with the country’s most prestigious dance award, the Premio Nacional de Danza. Hailed for her intense and elegant spirit, Baras will perform with her company of ten dancers and six musicians plus musical director José María Bandera. Covering various flamenco emotions, Sabores draws inspiration from a variety of dance forms, such as tangos, seguiriyas, tanguillos and bulerías, creating a flavorful palette and a feast for the senses. Sabores is “a perfectly presented show of faultless flamenco” (The Evening Standard, London) and had its world premiere in Paris during the 2005 Flamenco Festival. The program also features two guest dancers/choreographers, José Serrano and Luis Ortega.

SARA BARAS

Sara Baras was born in Cadiz, Spain in 1971 and began training at her mother’s flamenco school at age eight. At 18, she won first prize in a television talent contest and began to gain recognition for her extraordinary gifts as a dancer. By 1998, she had established Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras; the company’s first production was Sensaciones, a journey through palos, traditional forms of flamenco that have no plot but emphasize the feminine aspects of the dance. The second production, titled Sueños, premiered in April of 1999 in Jerez, Spain. Paris’s Le Figaro called Baras “the most sensational discovery on the women’s [flamenco] scene—her

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dance is sculptural and magnificent, her footwork of a virtuosity rarely attained by a female flamenco dancer.” An audience favorite, Sueños toured Europe, United States, South America and Asia. With Sabores, her third production, she finishes a trilogy of work begun with Senaciones.

Recognized for her youth and beauty as well as for her talent as a dancer and choreographer, Baras was named the “Face of Andalusia” in 2002 and represents the Tourism Council of the Andalusian government. She was honored with a stamp issued by the Spanish postal system and has gained a reputation as a fashion-forward celebrity.

**BALLET FLAMENCO SARA BARAS**

Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras, founded in 1998, includes two guitarists, two singers, a percussionist and a violinist creating syncopated rhythms that work in symbiosis with the dancers’ explosive footwork and choreography. The award-winning company has toured extensively. In 2002, they made flamenco box office history by selling out every night of a five-month show in Madrid, where Baras now makes her home.

In addition to Baras (director, choreographer, dancer), the company includes dancers Alicia Fernández, Cecilia Gómex, Ana González, Charo Pedraja, María Vega, Raúl Fernandez, José Galán, Raúl Prieto, Daniel Saltares and David Martín. The band is made up of Bandera (musical director, guitar); Mario Montoya (guitar); Miguel de la Tolea and Saúl Quirós (vocals); Antonio Suárez (percussion); and José Amador Goñi (violin).

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras Saturday, February 24 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall are priced at $28.00, $38.00 and $56.00. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.net; 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.calperformances.net.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, February 24 at 8:00 p.m.  Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Sunday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m.  Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

World Stage
Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras
Sara Baras, dancer and artistic director

Program: Spain’s most famous flamenco company, Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras, perform the Bay Area premiere of Sabores (Flavors), the final installment in a trilogy of work showing a broad spectrum of flamenco styles.

Tickets: $28.00, $38.00 and $56.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.net; and at the door.

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