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**CHILE'S INTI-ILLIMANI RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS BRINGING LATIN AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC
TO WORLD AUDIENCES SATURDAY, MARCH 31 AT 8:00 P.M. IN
ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, February 23, 2007—Inti-Illimani celebrates its four decades of music-making and social change advocacy in a return engagement **Saturday, March 31 at 8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall**. Founded in 1967 to explore and perform the Chilean folk music canon, Inti-Illimani (pronounced *Inte-E-gee-mane*) has gained audiences worldwide with its continually expanding repertoire spanning from embracing the evocative wooden flutes of the Andean highlands to pulsing guitar rhythms of Latin American roots music to politically based *Nueva Canción* and world music. The program features remaining founding member **Jorge Coulon** joined by 7 musicians who weave an intoxicating musical tapestry, singing and performing on more than 30 instruments. With their eclectic mix of wind, string and percussion, Inti-Illimani produces vibrant songs that “float within your soul, filling it with calmness and hope...the sheer beauty of sound.” (*Los Angeles Times*) This performance is co-produced by Cal Performances and La Peña Cultural Center.

Known for compelling vocal and instrumental renditions of folk music from Latin America and elsewhere, **Inti-Illimani's** increasingly sophisticated style has been described by Coulon as being “in the vanguard...in part, because the group's contemporary musicians enjoy an unprecedented freedom to mix musical genres in the style Inti-Illimani pioneered 40 years ago” (*AARP Segunda Juventud*). In another interview, Coulon commented on the group's political role: “We have a concept of society and about the relationships between human beings, and we try to translate our ideas into our sound, not to be part of one political party or another but in the sense to bring about a better world.”

PROGRAM

The group will perform classic favorites along with songs from its newest CD, *Pequeño Mundo*—its 43rd release. The recording continues Inti-Illimani's explorations of world music, and

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includes the group's first foray into jazz-flavored composition with several original works by members. Highlights include the percussion-driven *Rondombé* and *Buonanotte Fiorellino*. Guest artists with strong historical connections to the group perform on this CD, including founding member Max Berru, past members Pedro Villagra and Renato Freyggang, and longtime collaborator and friend Patricio Manns.

In its stage performances, Inti-Illimani makes full use of a range of instruments from the European, American Indian, African and Mestizo cultures, which together form the rich and voluminous musical heritage of Latin American. Switching and sharing instruments throughout the performance, the ensemble's configuration changes constantly "not only from song to song but often in the same piece, keeping the music fresh and challenging." (*The Boston Globe*) In its world tours, Inti-Illimani comes into contact with numerous cultures, adopting and integrating new instruments along the way.

Instruments include the European guitar, adopted early on by Latin American populations becoming the basic instrument of Chilean folk music; the hammered dulcimer; the *quena*, an Andean wood flute; the *scacciapensieri*, a small Italian mouth instrument; and the *charango*, a five-paired string instrument made from an armadillo carapace, or of special wood. These are joined by a vast array of string and wind instruments as well as an eclectic percussion. Not to be overlooked are the exceptional voices of Inti-Illimani "especially when all the musicians are singing in unison, harmony or counterpoint" (*The New York Times*). The eight musicians sing songs of hope, struggle and inspiration in Spanish, Italian and Andean dialects.

INTI-ILLIMANI

Inti-Illimani has promoted Latin American folk music worldwide, often in collaboration with some of the world's most renowned artists, including Federico Fellini, John Williams, Wynton Marsalis, Sting, Pete Seeger and Bruce Springsteen. The group was honored with the 1990 Lion of Venice and with a Human Rights Award from UC Berkeley in 1997.

The name Inti-Illimani, from the *Ayamara* dialect, means Sun Mountain (Inti—sun, Illimani—a mountain near La Paz, Bolivia). The group's unique synthesis of instrumentals and

vocals draws together ancient musical expression with contemporary social issues. The “Intis” met in the 1960s at Santiago Technical University, where they were studying to become engineers. Their shared love of music prompted them to explore the indigenous cultures of Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Argentina. In some of the poorest and most ancient cultures they discovered Andean music and their own roots. Inti-Illimani's music became Latin America's link between the past and the people of today, exemplified in *Nueva Canción* (new song), a movement in Latin American music combining folk music idioms with progressive politics and often politicized lyrics.

In 1973, Chilean President Salvador Allende was deposed while Inti-Illimani was on tour in Europe, leaving the young musicians without country or passport. Exponents of *Nueva Canción* were forced underground. For Inti-Illimani, it meant that Italy would become their home for the next 14 years. In 1988, they were warmly welcomed back to Chile, moving home permanently in 1990. Inti-Illimani since has taken on the unofficial role of South America's ambassadors of peace and cultural expression. They have appeared on Amnesty International stages and at benefit concerts for the Victor Jara Foundation. The late Chilean composer, singer, poet and actor Jara was close friends with the Intis. As the most popular figure of *Nueva Canción*, he was tortured and killed by the rightist military regime.

Since 2002, Inti-Illimani has welcomed four new members. As the band's sound continues to embrace new musical sensibilities, the younger Intis are also mastering the group's classics, which remain in the group's repertoire. They do not, however, feel constrained by the musical legacy they have inherited. Daniel Cantillana, violinist and frequent lead vocalist who has collaborated on some of the new material, stated “rather, these songs establish an intangible aesthetic framework that lets us know whether a song can fit within what we do. It is our identity, and if it determines what we do, it does so very subtly.” In addition to its tours and recordings, Inti-Illimani's music was used for the award-winning 2004 documentary *The Devil's Miner*, a moving portrait of 14-year-old Basilio Vargas and his 12-year-old brother, Bernardino, as they work in the Bolivian silver mines of Cerro Rico. In 2005, Inti-Illimani was commissioned to compose and record the soundtrack for the film *My Little World* (www.julyfilms.com), a full-length animated feature.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Inti-Illimani** on **Saturday, March 31 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$20.00, \$26.00** and **\$32.00**. 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, March 31 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

World Stage
Inti-Illimani

Program:

Inti-Illimani, Chile's renowned Latin roots music band and exponent of *Nueva Canción* brings its uniquely powerful combination of vocals and instrumentals to Cal Performances in celebration of four decades of performing.

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