

CONTACT:
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu
Joe Yang 510.642.9121
scyang@calperfs.berkeley.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 29, 2007

**THE MUSICAL FIREWORKS OF THE WORLD'S PREMIER MARIACHI BAND,
MARIACHI LOS CAMPEROS DE NATI CANO,
FILLS ZELLERBACH HALL THURSDAY, MAY 3 AT 8:00 P.M.**

BERKELEY, March 29, 2007—Noted for dazzling musical arrangements that highlight the individual skills and voices of its nine members, the Grammy-nominated **Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano** will perform at **Zellerbach Hall** on **Thursday, May 3 at 8:00 p.m.** Under the leadership of **Nati Cano**, a charismatic visionary who both mirrors and shapes the history of mariachi music, the ensemble features two trumpets, four fiddles, Mexican harp, *guitarron* (six-stringed bass guitar), and Cano on *vihuela* (a five-stringed rhythm guitar). Together, the group sounds “at least twice as big as the sum of its instruments, blasting out a brassy, rhythmic musical stew,” says the *Ann Arbor News*. Along with musical director **Jesus “Chuy” Guzman**, the band, which features the finest musicians from Mexico and the United States, has performed throughout North America for nearly 44 years.

Performances by Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano are like a guided tour of Mexico's geography and history, ranging from joyous exuberance to plaintive yearning. The band's virtuosity is driven by subtle yet forceful bass lines, harmonized trumpet charts and syncopated violin arrangements, each number featuring moments of instrumental or vocal brilliance. Guzman, whose rich, expressive voice powers many of the numbers, frequently breaks into a falsetto to extend phrases beyond their expected resolution. Other band members perform loosely choreographed dance steps and interact with the audience. The program will be announced from the stage.

NATI CANO

Classically trained **Natividad “Nati” Cano** was born in 1933 to a family of musicians in Jalisco, Mexico, one of the many west Mexican communities that gave life to the mariachi tradition. At the age of 17, he traveled north to Mexicali to join Mariachi Chapala, where he was the youngest musician by at least a decade. In 1957, Cano came to the United States and

-MORE-

eventually joined the Million Dollar Theater's Mariachi Aguila. In 1961, he became the group's musical director and changed the name to Los Camperos, leading it to become the driving force of the mariachi tradition in the United States. Cano's mission is to bring traditional Mexican music to classical audiences in the same way that jazz has found legitimacy with fans of serious music. He has that rare combination of talents necessary to bring genre music to the mainstream: musical ability plus the force of a winning and persuasive personality. Cano has received this country's National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship and Mexico's coveted Sylvestre Vargas Award for artistic excellence. In 2006, Cano became one of the first artists to win a USA Fellowship from United States Artists.

MARIACHI LOS CAMPEROS DE NATI CANO

Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano has been performing its infectious brand of music for more than four decades. The band received national attention in 1989 when it collaborated on Linda Ronstadt's album, *Canciones de Mi Padre* (Songs of my Father). To promote the album, the group made national television appearances on programs, including *The Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson and the Grammy Awards Show. They later played on Linda Ronstadt's *Mas Canciones* (More Songs). The ensemble has recorded eight albums of its own, including *Llegaron Los Camperos*, which was nominated for a 2006 Grammy in the category of Best Mexican/Mexican-American Album. Los Camperos also shared a 2005 Best Musical Album for Children Grammy for *cELLabration!, A tribute to Ella Jenkins*.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano** on **Thursday, May 3 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 website at www.calperformances.net.

#

-MORE-

Cal Performances' 2006/2007 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC and SFStation.com are 2006/2007 season media sponsors.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday, May 3 at 8:00 p.m.

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

World Stage

Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano

Nati Cano, director and *viuela*

Jesus "Chuy" Guzman, musical director and vocals

Program: The nine members of Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano will present a program showcasing Mexico's most enduring *sones* and *canciones rancheras* (country songs).

Tickets: \$20.00, \$26.00 and \$32.00, 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.
