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**THE KING OF FLAMENCO/JAZZ GUITAR PACO DE LUCÍA RETURNS TO
CAL PERFORMANCES WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, JANUARY 31 AND
FEBRUARY 1 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, December 22, 2006—Now in his fifth decade of performing with “alarming virtuosity” (*The New York Times*), **Paco de Lucía** promises an antidote to the chill of winter when he and his band of six musicians come to Zellerbach Hall **Wednesday** and **Thursday, January 31** and **February 1 at 8:00 p.m.** The program titled *Paco de Lucía in Concert* features a number of songs from his 2004 multi-award winning CD *Cositas Buenas*, among other works. The ensemble includes **Niño Josele** (guitar), **Israel Suárez “Piraña”** (percussion), **Alain Pérez** (bass), **Antonio Serrano** (keyboard), and **Chonchi Heredia** and **Montserrat Cortés** (vocals). De Lucía’s innovations such as the use of jazz instruments, the *cajon* (a box drum) and more complex harmonies have been widely adopted in flamenco. With his “incendiary spirit and astonishing digital prowess” (*Chicago Tribune*), de Lucía is the reigning royalty of guitar artistry.

Born in the southern province of Cadiz, Spain, **Paco de Lucía** was playing guitar at 11-years-old. His father, Antonio Sánchez, his brother, Ramon de Algeciras, and master Nino Ricardo were his main influences. At 12, he began playing with his brother Pepe in a group called *Los Chiquitos de Algeciras*. Shortly after winning a prize at the International Flamenco Contest in Jerez in 1962, he and his two brothers were hired by the José Greco Company, with which they toured the world. Encouraged by one of his flamenco heroes, Sabicas, de Lucía began composing and recording. His first albums, guitar duos, were recorded with Ricardo Modrego, a member of the Jose Greco Ballet, and Ramón de Algeciras.

In 1970, de Lucía made his Carnegie Hall debut to rave reviews. At about the same time, he met flamenco singer El Camarón de la Isla; they began a long and productive relationship, recording numerous albums together. It was Camarón who encouraged de Lucía to develop his own style of playing. Over the course of his career, de Lucía has made many revolutionary

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changes in flamenco. He introduced the *cajón* from Peru and electric bass; he changed the harmonies and the concept of *toque* (beat) and brought a new understanding of such great Spanish composers as Manuel de Falla, Isaac Albéniz and Joaquin Rodrigo. He also worked with important jazz artists such as Corea, McLaughlin, Coryell and DiMeola. With his brothers and Jorge Pardo, Carles Benavent, Rubem Dantas, Manuel Soler and Juan Ramírez or El Grilo, his sextet has set the current model for flamenco presentation on stage.

While de Lucía has been a groundbreaker through out his career, the center of his artistry is the age-old traditions of flamenco culture, which is reflected in the 25 records he has made. His most recent album, *Cositas Buenas*, was recorded in 2004 and features the voice of Camarón who died in 1992. The album has received many honors including a Grammy nomination for best contemporary world music album; the Latin Grammy for best flamenco recording; *Billboard's* best Latin jazz record of the year; and five music awards in Spain. He has also composed soundtracks for films *Carmen*, *La Sabina* and *Montoyas y Taranto*.

Also in 2004, Paco de Lucía received Spain's most prestigious award the Premio Principe de Asturias, given to people from around the world who make notable achievements in the sciences, humanities, or public affairs; he is the first flamenco artist to receive this award.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Paco de Lucía** on **Wednesday and Thursday, January 31 and February 1** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$24.00**, **\$36.00**, and **\$48.00**. 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; 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.

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Cal Performances' 2006/07 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Wednesday, January 31 at 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 1 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

Special Event

Paco de Lucía in Concert

Paco de Lucía, guitar

Program: Paco de Lucía, one of the world's most acclaimed flamenco and jazz guitarists, returns to Cal Performances with his band.

Tickets: \$32.00, \$48.00, and \$62.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.
