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**GRAMMY AWARD-WINNER DAN ZANES RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES
WITH HIS FRIENDS FOR THREE THANKSGIVING WEEKEND PERFORMANCES
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 & 25**

**HIS LATEST ALBUM *CATCH THAT TRAIN* WON THE 2007 GRAMMY FOR
BEST MUSICAL ALBUM FOR CHILDREN.**

BERKELEY, October 12, 2007—There will be extra reasons to give thanks when the music-loving, kid-friendly folks that makeup **Dan Zanes & Friends** come to Zellerbach Hall for three performances **Saturday, November 24** at **11:00 a.m.** and **2:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, November 25** at **3:00 p.m.** Zanes and his lively group of New York-based musicians perform updated versions of traditional American folk songs, dance classics, globally-influenced jams and an ever-increasing number of originals. “No one is expected to sit quietly in their seat,” said Zanes. “Let’s celebrate all the cultures that we can through music...everybody’s welcome at this party.” Formerly the lead singer of alternative ‘80s rock band the Del Fuegos, Dan Zanes put his past behind him and embraced his new ways. “[Rock ‘n’ roll] was a stepping-stone to get to this amazing world that I’m in now”—a place that all members of the family can appreciate, “executed with such sweet (and un-gooney!) humor, casual multiculturalism, and shambling groove that you can call it your own” (*The New York Times*). His friends this time around include **Colin Brooks** (percussion), **Sonia de Los Santos** (guitar, vocals), **John Foti** (accordion), **Saskia Lane** (bass), **Elena Moon Park** (violin) and rapper **Rankin’ Don** (a.k.a. Father Goose); they join Zanes, who sings and plays the mandolin, banjo and electric guitar.

DAN ZANES

Born in 1961 in Exeter, New Hampshire, **Dan Zanes** first picked up a guitar when he was eight and began taking Leadbelly records out of the public library as soon as he was old enough to sign his name. He was in a series of bands throughout high school and founded the Del Fuegos in 1981 with Tom Lloyd. As a Del Fuego, Zanes made several records—*The*

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Longest Day (1984), *Boston, Mass* (1985), *Stand Up* (1987), and *Smoking in the Fields* (1989)—and the band garnered considerable acclaim in the rock world. *Rolling Stone* named the Del Fuegos the best new band of 1984. However, by 1991 the Del Fuegos had run its course.

Zanes began playing music with a group of fathers he met on West Village playgrounds, and under the name the Wonderland String Band the dads played gigs at parks and parties. Eventually Zanes produced a tape of the band which was a hit locally—i.e., on the neighborhood playgrounds where he and his daughter played—and Zanes realized that he liked making music that families could enjoy together, as opposed to music that is just for kids or just for adults.

Zanes added female members to the band and renamed it the Rocket Ship Revue, and began making full-fledged homemade recordings, enlisting the help of people he'd met when he was a Del Fuego—Sheryl Crow, Suzanne Vega, and Simon Kirke (the drummer for Bad Company), among others. The resulting CD, *Rocket Ship Beach*, released in 2000, was a hit. Zanes' second CD, *Family Dance*, released in 2001, enlisted the help of Loudon Wainwright III, Sandra Bernhard and Roseanne Cash. And a third, *Night Time!* (2002), boasted an even longer list of collaborators: Aimee Mann, Lou Reed, former X frontman John Doe, and Dar Williams contributed originals and familiar songs such as Louis Armstrong's *What a Wonderful World* and Woody Guthrie's *So Long, It's Been Good to Know Yuh*, and the traditional melody *Wild Mountain Thyme*. "This rock veteran reinvents children's music," writes the *Nashville Scene*, "and parents everywhere are thankful."

In the fall of 2003 Dan Zanes & Friends released their Grammy nominated CD, *House Party*, an album brimming with songs and collaborators including Grateful Dead legend Bob Weir, Angelique Kidjo, Debbie Harry, and Philip Glass. Their first CD in the Festival Five Folk Series, *Sea Music*, was released in April 2004, and was cited in the *Rolling Stone's* Hot Issue in the category of Hot Maritime Sounds. Their latest album *Catch That Train* won them the 2007 Grammy for Best Musical Album for Children. Bringing together Kronos Quartet, Natalie Merchant, the Blind Boys of Alabama, Father Goose and the children of South Africa's Agape

Orphanage, the album is an instrumental mix that was inspired by simple pleasures such as talking a train ride, walking with your child and Halloween in your neighborhood.

THE FRIENDS

Colin Brooks started drumming at age 14 with some friends in a punk rock band called the Numbskulz in Little Rock, Arkansas. Having toured in Europe, Australia and New Zealand with multiple bands, Brooks returned to New York and began playing with local singers Serena Jost and Dana Fuchs, while drumming on jingles and playing in the off-Broadway musical *Betty Rules*. He joined a Brooklyn-based band called Sea Ray and toured the United States and Canada extensively and played in many New York area shows.

Born in Monterrey, Mexico, **Sonia de Los Santos** received various awards for her appearance as a composer and interpreter of the song *Dos Niñas Mas* at the National Festival de la Cancion of the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey. Her acting career began with the national tours of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. In the last years, Santos has appeared in the leading roles of *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Auntie Mame* and *A Chorus Line*.

Accordianist **John Foti**'s first musical experience was figuring out the *Sesame Street* theme song at a young age. Inspired by his father and older sister, Foti went on to take piano lessons through college. Always trying new things, Foti is thrilled to join Dan Zanes and Friends playing the accordion.

San Francisco born and raised **Saskia Lane** picked up her first stringed instrument (violin) at the age of four. After realizing that the fiddle was far too small for her big personality, she switched to the stand-up bass the day she turned 11. Lane moved to New York in 1997 to earn her Masters Degree in Double Bass Performance from The Juilliard School and has been performing throughout the tri-state area with a variety jazz, pop and classical artists.

Hailing from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, **Elena Moon Park** began playing the violin and dancing early on. Having started off playing classical music, Park has turned her attention to the music around the world as she travels to other countries and learning new things.

Perhaps the most collaborated artist with Dan Zanes, **Rakin Don** has appeared on all CD releases by Dan Zanes under an alias, **Father Goose**. Having roots in Jamaican underground music, Don has recorded big hits like *Baddest DJ* and *Real McCoy*, which sold over 350,000 combined copies worldwide. He is now a producer of Rock Tower Studios, known for its rich history in the foundation of reggae music.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Dan Zanes & Friends** on **Saturday, November 24** at **11 a.m. & 2 p.m.** and **Sunday, November 25** at **3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$16.00** and **\$26.00**, with special half-price tickets for children 16 and under to all performances. 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, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 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.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. Information is available at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances 2007/08 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, November 24 at 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Sunday, November 25 at 3:00 p.m. Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave, Berkeley

Music

Dan Zanes & Friends

Program: 2007 Grammy Award-winner Dan Zanes returns to Zellerbach Hall for three Thanksgiving performances.

Tickets: \$16.00 and \$26.00, with special half-price tickets for children 16 and under for all performances; 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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