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**BAREFOOT DIVA CESARIA EVORA SINGS FOR THE BAY AREA  
THURSDAY & FRIDAY OCTOBER 9 & 10 AT 8:00 P.M. IN  
ZELLERBACH HALL**

**BERKELEY, August 29, 2008**—“The soulful, rich-as-fruitcake voice of Cape Verdean” (*The Daily Telegraph*, Australia) chanteuse **Cesaria Evora** returns to Cal Performances **Thursday & Friday, October 9 & 10 at 8:00 p.m.** at Zellerbach Hall. The queen of *morna*, as she is often referred to, brings the traditional and melancholic style that fuses Latin jazz and Afro beats with traces of Portuguese *fado* and Brazilian *modinha*. “*Morna* is a little bit similar [to] blues” explains the multiple Grammy-winning Evora. “We express our suffering; we express our separation between people who love each other...[and] sometimes politics and racism, too.” In a literal reference to her style on stage, the nickname Barefoot Diva is also widely embraced. For the two performances in Berkeley, Evora will be accompanied by her band, creating “honey-smooth, resonant, unhurried sound evoking bittersweet emotions” (*The Daily Telegraph*, Australia).

Evora’s distinctive style of music is drawn directly from hometown life in Mindelo, an impoverished island off the coast of Senegal and a former Portuguese colony. After her father died, most of her siblings emigrated, but Evora remained firmly rooted in the culture and nightlife of her birthplace. By 16, Evora had found a spot for herself in Mindelo’s music scene: with her voice that conveyed power and vulnerability, she was perfect for the style of music called *morna*.

Evora sang regularly until she started to raise a family. At that point, she took a decade off before finally getting her musical break in the 1980s. She was plucked from obscurity in a small club in Lisbon, when her voice captivated José Da Silva, a young Frenchman of Cape Verdean origin. He convinced her to travel with him to Paris to record, and a musical relationship between the two was born.

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In 1988, Evora and Da Silva made *La Diva aux Pieds Nus*, and in the ensuing years, *Distino di Belita* (1990) and *Mar Azul* (1991). But it was the 1992 *Miss Perfumado* that made Evora a star at age 52. In 1995, Evora's self-titled album *Cesaria Evora* was nominated for a Grammy and her New York City date at The Bottom Line attracted such curious notables as Madonna, David Byrne and Branford Marsalis. Evora won a Grammy Award in 2003 for her album, *Voz D' Amor*. On it she sings classic songs of her island nation as well as new compositions written exclusively for her voice. Evora's latest record, *Rogamar* (2006), is her tenth album since her 1988 recording debut. Garnering several gold records and a total of six Grammy nominations, her work has been characterized by *The New York Times* as "melodies as graceful and knowing as the Mona Lisa's smile."

Although the *morna's* beginnings are not completely clear, it is believed that early 19th century Africans helped form Cape Verde's version of the blues. However, this style of singing doesn't always mean sadness. "...*morna* seems to be melancholic, but it is not always, because when a boy tells his love to a girl it is not sad. But it is the feeling—how we sing it—that seems melancholic" defends Evora. In her music, listeners hear strains of Portuguese *fado*, French *chanson* and Cuban *habanera* plus influences from Brazilian samba and the Argentine tango. Most *mornas* are written and sung in Kriolu, a blend of Portuguese and West African languages spoken in Cape Verde.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Cesaria Evora on Thursday & Friday, October 9 & 10 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$26.00, \$38.00 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.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); 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.org](http://www.calperformances.org).

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 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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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Thursday & Friday, October 9 & 10 at 8:00 p.m.**     **Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*World Stage*

**Cesaria Evora**

**Program:** Grammy-Award winner Cesaria Evora brings her hauntingly beautiful music to Cal Performances for two nights.

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