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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 30, 2009

**THE SPIRITED VOICE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S
LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO CAN BE HEARD
THURSDAY, MARCH 12 AT 8 P.M. AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**SchoolTime: One-hour Performances for Bay Area Students Will be Given
Friday, March 13 at 11:00 a.m.**

BERKELEY, January 30, 2009—Grammy Award-winning vocalists and cultural emissaries **Ladysmith Black Mambazo** bring its message of peace, love, and harmony to Cal Performances on **Thursday, March 12 at 8 p.m.** at Zellerbach Hall. For more than forty years the ten-member *a cappella* group, founded and directed by **Joseph Shabalala**, has devoted itself to bringing the South African culture to the consciousness of the world through music. The ensemble's layered richness and seductive South African rhythms and harmonies are infused with sentiments of gospel. "It isn't merely the grace and power of their dancing or the beauty of their singing that rivets the attention, but the sheer joy and love that emanates from their being," explains the singer/songwriter Paul Simon who first brought them to international attention 20 years ago.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo will give a *SchoolTime* performance for Bay Area students on Friday, March 13 at 11:00 a.m. at Zellerbach Hall. Tickets are sold in advance only.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo is known for its mesmerizing, athletic, funny stage performances that delight audience members of all ages. *The Boston Globe* wrote of a recent concert that "the dancing looked anything but casual: intricate steps, stomps, hand flutters, chops, waves, and high kicks, all while singing. Imagine the five-man Temptations, multiply by two, add Zulu lyrics, and you get the idea."

It's been almost two decades since Paul Simon traveled to South Africa to record with Joseph Shabalala and the other members of Ladysmith Black Mambazo. Captivated by their stirring bass, alto and tenor harmonies, Simon incorporated their traditional sounds of black South

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Africa into his *Graceland* album, a project that introduced Ladysmith to the world and ignited the explosive interest in world music. Since then, Ladysmith Black Mambazo has performed throughout the world for presidents, dignitaries, kings, queens and the Pope. They have performed at two Nobel Peace Prize ceremonies, the Olympics, and Queen Elizabeth II's "Party at the Palace" celebration in 2002. The group's founder, Joseph Shabalala, says of the Ladysmith's astounding international appeal, "It is quite a dream for a Zulu South African to dream."

The traditional music sung by Ladysmith Black Mambazo is called Isicathamiya (is-cot-a-me-ya) and was born in the mines of South Africa. The idea for Ladysmith's particular style came to Joseph Shabalala in a dream in 1964. He recruited members of his immediate family and close friends to help him realize the harmony he had dreamed of and, in time, Ladysmith Black Mambazo emerged with its deep, rich, resonant sound.

The name Ladysmith Black Mambazo came as a result of winning every singing competition the group entered. "Ladysmith" is the hometown of the Shabalala family, "Black" makes reference to the black ox, considered to be the strongest on the farm, and "Mambazo" is the Zulu word for ax, symbolic of the group's ability to "chop down" the competition.

They recorded their first album in 1970. Since then the group, which sings in English, French, Zulu and various African dialects, with touches of doo-wop, gospel and reggae, has recorded more than 40 albums, selling over six million records at home and abroad. *Shaka Zulu*, their first album released in the United States won a Grammy Award for best Traditional Folk Album in 1987. *Raise Your Spirit Higher*, released in 2003, celebrated the 10th anniversary of the end of apartheid with a politically charged collection of Zulu-Christian gospel. The album won the Grammy Award for Best Traditional World Music Recording. The vocal group went beyond its usual style to include rap and variations on blues standards. Ladysmith's most recent album, *Long Walk to Freedom*, celebrates the ensemble's prolific career with re-recordings of its thirteen best compositions and was nominated for two Grammy Awards in 2006.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo has recorded with numerous artists including Yo-Yo Ma, Stevie Wonder, Dolly Parton, George Clinton, and Ben Harper. The ensemble provided the soundtracks for Spike Lee's *Do It A Cappella*, Disney's *The Lion King II*, Eddie Murphy's *Coming to America* and others. The group's appearance with Paul Simon on *Sesame Street* is the most requested in the show's history.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo's members are Joseph Shabalala, **Msizi Shabalala**, **Russel Mthembu**, **Albert Mazibuko**, **Jabulani Dubazana**, **Thulani Shabalala**, **Thamsanqa Shabalala**, **Sibongiseni Shabalala**, **Jockey Shabalala** and **Abedengo Mazibuko**.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Ladysmith Black Mambazo** on **Thursday, March 12** at **8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$24.00**, **\$24.00**, 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; 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.

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 for UCB students; \$15 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, March 12 at 8:00 p.m.

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

World Stage.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Program: Ladysmith Black Mambazo comes to Berkeley with the sounds of South Africa combined with gospel music.

Tickets: \$24.00, \$34.00, and \$46.00 available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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Friday, March 13 at 11:00 a.m.

SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE

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

Dance

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Program: Grammy Award-winning vocalists and cultural emissary from South Africa **Ladysmith Black Mambazo** brings its message of peace, love, and harmony to Bay Area students.

Tickets: \$4.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-1082. *SchoolTime* performances are open to students in kindergarten through grade 12 in Bay Area public and private schools. Supplemental study guides for the classroom are provided. For more information about the *SchoolTime* program, contact the *SchoolTime* coordinator at Cal Performances by email at eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

– Cal Performances –