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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 12, 2010

**SENEGALESE SUPERSTAR BAABA MAAL  
RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES ON  
TUESDAY, APRIL 20 AT ZELLERBACH at 8:00 P.M.**

**BERKELEY, March 12, 2010**—Guitarist/vocalist **Baaba Maal**, known for creating decades of “hypnotic...uplifting and visceral” (*The New York Times*) music fusing African and Western beats and melodies, will return to Cal Performances’ **Zellerbach Hall** on **Tuesday, April 20 at 8:00 p.m.** Maal blends the traditional sounds of African instruments, like the *djimbe* (hand drum) and *sabar* (hourglass drum), with guitars and keyboards, topped with his own fiery vocals. His Berkeley program will include selections from his newest CD, *Television* (2009), created in partnership with Brazilian Girls, a New York dance band, plus songs from his vast repertoire. Joining Maal onstage will be vocalist **Mansour Seck**, Maal’s longtime friend and collaborator, plus seven instrumentalists: **Aliou Diouf** (drums/samples), **Mbara Cisse** (bass), **Ibrahima Cissokho** (electric guitar), **Hilaire Chaby Hary** (keyboards), **Barou Sall** (*hoddu*, a traditional Wolof string instrument believed to be an ancestor to the banjo), **Massamba Diop** (talking drum) and **Mamadou Sarr** (percussion). The songs will be announced from the stage.

Raised in a small village in West Africa, **Baaba Maal** was not expected to be a musician, having not been born into the caste of *griot*. Luckily, he was encouraged by his mother and his elementary school’s headmaster to play and sing throughout his childhood. During this time, Maal started listening to music from other parts of the world, including James Brown, Bob Marley and Jimmy Cliff. He also traveled to many West African villages and learned the songs of village elders, leading to his deep knowledge of various African styles. Expanding on this knowledge, he studied in Paris at the Conservatoire des Beaux Arts, before returning to Senegal and starting his band Daande Lenol (“Voice of the People”). Maal has released nine critically acclaimed albums, many of which have received Grammy Award nominations. His performances of energizing music and dance have been applauded as “incredibly complex and stunningly simple” (*Telegraph*, UK).

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Maal maintains a rigorous touring schedule and has performed on almost every continent. Maal's mission in West Africa extends beyond his music. He is committed to the concerns of families, young people and the future of the continent, as is reflected in his role as Youth Emissary for the United Nations' Development Program. "African artists in general, and musicians in particular, who get the chance to travel and to have their voice very loud, should use that opportunity to help the leaders from Africa to understand what to do," Maal explains. He has given voice to these issues in such songs as "A Song for Women" (*Television*), which encourages African women to fight poverty. Maal frequently uses his musical talents to perform in politically connected concerts, such as the Nelson Mandela 46664 Concert, the African Union summit in Ethiopia and the Live Earth concert in South Africa.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Baaba Maal** on **Tuesday, April 20** at **8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$24.00**, **\$32.00** and **\$46.00**. 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 three 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 on Cal Performances' Facebook page and at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances 2009/10 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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**ALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Tuesday, April 20 at 8:00 p.m.**

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

*World Stage*

**Baaba Maal**

**Program:** One of Africa's greatest musical treasures, Senegalese singer and guitarist Baaba Maal returns to Zellerbach Hall after a six-year absence.

**Tickets:** \$24.00, \$32.00 and \$46.00, 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.

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