

CONTACT:
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu
Joe Yang 510.642.9121
scyang@calperfs.berkeley.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 29, 2010

**DAN ZANES & FRIENDS ROCK ZELLERBACH HALL
WITH THREE FAMILY-FRIENDLY WEEKEND PERFORMANCES
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 6 & 7**

BERKELEY, January 29, 2010—The Grammy Award-winning **Dan Zanes & Friends** bring their exuberant, family-friendly music to Zellerbach Hall for three performances—always a “cause for celebration” (*The New York Times*)—**Saturday, March 6** at **11:00 a.m.** and **4:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, March 7** at **3:00 p.m.** Zanes and his lively group of New York-based musicians lend their homespun take on traditional American folk songs, dance classics, globally influenced jams and an ever-increasing number of originals. *Rolling Stone* dubs the grooves “Wry, rootsy, real American folk music—songs that twist a little plangency into the sweetness of a melody, songs that feel like life.” Formerly the lead singer of alternative 1980s rock band the Del Fuegos, Dan Zanes put his past behind him and embraced his new ways, creating music that transcended audiences and revolutionizing the family music genre. Twenty ten marks a special year for Zanes: the 10-year anniversary of the launch of his “decidedly independent” label, Festival Five Records. Dan Zanes & Friends celebrate this milestone with a national tour and an eleventh album, *76 Trombones*, a compilation of evergreen Broadway show tunes featuring guest vocalists such as Carol Channing and Matthew Broderick. His friends this time around include **Colin Brooks** (percussion), **Sonia de Los Santos** (guitar, vocals), **John Foti** (accordion), **Saskia Lane** (bass) and **Elena Moon Park** (violin); they join Zanes, who sings and plays the mandolin, banjo and electric guitar. “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.” In addition, Dan Zanes and Friends will be joined by young people from La Peña Cultural Center and Bay Area Youth Arts, Inc who will perform with the band during the three shows in Berkeley.

-MORE-

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 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.

After the birth of his daughter, Anna, 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's 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 fall 2003 Dan Zanes & Friends released their Grammy-nominated CD, *House Party*, an album brimming with songs and collaborators including Grateful Dead legend Bob Weir,

Angélique 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 2007 album *Catch That Train!* won them a Grammy for Best Musical Album for Children. Bringing together the 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. One of Zanes's favorite recording project is *¡Nueva York!*. Released in summer 2008, it incorporates music with his friends from the Latin world, celebrating some of the vibrant culture that comes with immigration. His latest album, *The Welcome Table: Songs of Inspiration, Mystery and Good Times*, is a collection of old and new recordings of tunes drawn primarily from North American gospel traditions put together to help create awareness for the New Sanctuary Movement—a coalition of interfaith religious leaders and participating congregations called by their faith to respond actively and publicly to the suffering of immigrant brothers and sisters living in the United States.

THE FRIENDS

Colin Brooks started drumming at age 14 with some friends in a punk rock band in Little Rock, Arkansas called the Numbskulz. 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. As an actress, Santos has toured nationally in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *A Chorus Line*. She was the lead singer in *Revolution* at the Joyce Theater in 2007.

Accordionist **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. When not on tour with Dan Zanes and Friends, Foti is involved in several musical groups and often plays around the NYC area.

San Francisco-born and-raised **Saskia Lane** picked up her first stringed instrument (violin) at age 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 master's 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. In addition to playing with Dan and all his friends, Lane can be heard with her beloved cocktail-pop quartet The Lascivious Biddies.

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.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Dan Zanes & Friends** on **Saturday, March 6** at **11 a.m. & 4 p.m.** and **Sunday, March 7** 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.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 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 at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

#

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

Classical 102.1 KDFC is our 2009/10 season media sponsor.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, March 6 at 11:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 7 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Music

Dan Zanes & Friends

Program: 2007 Grammy-winner for his children's music, Dan Zanes & Friends return to Zellerbach Hall.

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.org; and at the door.

- Cal Performances -