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**SPANISH SINGER BUIKA  
BRINGS HER FUSION OF SPANISH, AFRICAN, GYPSY, AND  
LATIN MUSIC TO CAL PERFORMANCES  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**BERKELEY, September 29, 2010**—The “spine-tingling soul” (*Miami Herald*) of **Buika** will be on display at Cal Performances on **Friday, November 5 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Buika’s intercontinental musical range—born out of her one-of-a-kind life story as a daughter of political refugees from Africa growing up in a gypsy neighborhood in Mallorca—includes Spanish *copla* torch songs, flamenco music’s emotional *cante jondo* (“deep songs”), Gypsy rumbas, Afro-Cuban rhythms, and Latin *rancheras*. She was recently nominated for two Latin Grammys, one for Recording of the Year for the song *Se Me Hizo Fácil* and the other for the album itself. Her program will include music from this album as well as from her repertory. “Her music is the rare fusion that honors all its sources” (*New York Times*). She will appear with a pared-down, jazz-style trio: pianist **Iván “Melón” Lewis**, doublebassist **Dany Noel** and percussionist **Fernando Favier**.

**BUIKA**

Born María Concepción Balboa Buika on the Spanish island of Mallorca in 1972, **Buika** (pronounced BWEE-kah) was raised, along with five siblings, by her mother in a poor neighborhood in the city of Palma de Mallorca. She recalls being the only black family in the city—her parents were political exiles from Equatorial Guinea—and Buika spent her childhood singing and playing guitar, piano, and bass. She also spent hours among the island’s Gypsy community, steeped in their music and culture; there, she developed her instinctive grasp of flamenco and *copla* music. Her first professional singing gig came at age 17, when she took a job at a local hotel; “Since I got on that stage, I never stopped working,” she has said. Buika grew musically throughout subsequent years in the spotlight, adding jazz and soul music to her repertoire. She even worked in Las Vegas as a Tina Turner impersonator in 2001.

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In 2005 she returned to Spain and recorded her first album, *Buika*. She caught the ear of famed Spanish producer Javier Limón, who guided her next album, *Mi Niña Lola*, released in 2006. That record, which blended African, American, and Andalusian flavors with traditional flamenco sounds, won several Spanish music awards and cemented her position as an up-and-coming Spanish singer. Buika's 2008 album, *Niña de Fuego*, received a Latin Grammy nomination as Album of the Year, and producer Limón received a nod as Producer of the Year. Her current record, *El Ultimo Trago* (2009), pays homage to Costa Rica-born *ranchera* star Chavela Vargas on her 90th birthday. On the album, whose title means "The Last Drink," Buika covers many of Vargas' timeless, traditional hits in a way that reinvents these Mexican standards with a modern, Spanish feel. The record, which features Cuban piano great Chucho Valdés and was recorded in two days at Abdala Studios in Havana.

Buika's stage performances are known for their boundless energy and fearless spirit. "Her improvisations are as good as other people's compositions," Limón recently told the *Miami Herald*. "She has a great imaginative gift and she has found a way to put it in practice." The *New York Times* called her live performance at the Brooklyn Academy of Music "magnificent" and said "All Buika needed was her voice to summon the music's complex past, its possibilities and, above all, its passionate immediacy."

Today Buika lives and works in Spain, dividing her time between Mallorca and Madrid. "She is at the center of a cutting-edge Madrid music scene of flamenco, jazz, and expatriate Cuban musicians," wrote the *Miami Herald*. "Her African roots and looks are exotic, but her voice and music are quintessentially Spanish." Buika recently recorded a duet with English soul singer Seal titled *You Get Me* for his new CD, *Seal 6: Commitment*, and makes her screen debut in Pedro Almodóvar's upcoming film *La Piel Que Habito* (The Skin I'm In).

Buika has received attention for her unconventional personal life; at one point she was married to a man and a woman at the same time. But all of this feeds the emotional soul of her music. "You have to want to sing about the many parts of who you are, not just the pretty things, or the things you think are cute," she has said. "Because the art of a person is sometimes in their

pain. It's everywhere and I think one must live openly, bravely, and tell it like it is at every moment, as if you were breathing.”

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Buika** on **Friday, November 5** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$26.00, \$30.00, 34.00** and **\$40.00**. 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 \$10.00 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 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' 2010/11 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Friday, November 5 at 8:00 p.m.**

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

*World Stage*

**Buika**, vocals

**Iván “Melón” Lewis**, pianist

**Dany Noel**, doublebassist

**Fernando Favier**, percussionist

**Program:** Versatile Spanish singer Buika will perform her Latin Grammy-nominated song *Se Me Hizo Fácil* plus songs from her vast repertoire influenced by Spanish, African, Gypsy, and Latin music.

**Tickets:** \$26.00, \$30.00, \$34.00 and \$40.00, 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](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

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