FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 20, 2014

FOCUS ON FLAMENCO:
CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE INCOMPARABLE
EVA YERBABUENA AND DAZZLING VOCALIST ESTRELLA MORENTE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 AND FRIDAY, MARCH 14 IN ZELLERBACH HALL

BERKELEY, February 20, 2014—Two of Spain’s most thrilling and celebrated performers, Eva Yerbabuena and Estrella Morente come to Zellerbach Hall with two separate March performances set just days apart. Both artists embody a fierce contemporary spin on the distinctive features of flamenco. On March 12 at 8:00 p.m., Ballet Flamenco Eva Yerbabuena takes the stage with explosive footwork, powerful movements, and innovative choreography. Yerbabuena is the winner of six major Spanish choreographic awards and has performed worldwide in venues such as the Sydney Opera House, Théâtre de la Ville, and Opera de Dusseldorf. “At the heart of her performance is a fierce, dark rigour that accumulates a thrilling power,” wrote London’s The Independent. Flamenco vocalist Estrella Morente appears two days later on March 14 at 8:00 p.m. with a program consisting of “Pregón de Las Moras,” “La Habanera Impossible,” and “La Estrella” from her Grammy-nominated Autorretrato (2012), among other pieces. Yerbabuena and Morente will be flanked by world-class accompanists—guitarist Paco Jarana and four members of the Carbonell family, respectively.

In her innovative choreography, Eva Yerbabuena revitalizes traditional flamenco using new dynamic structures without sacrificing the rhythmic intensity and dramatic aspects of the style. She connects with the music on an emotional level and embodies the soulfulness essential to flamenco. Yerbabuena has been dancing flamenco professionally for nearly 20 years. In 1998 she formed her own dance company, the Eva Yerbabuena Ballet Flamenco, which has toured in Brazil, Chile, England, France, India, Japan, Peru, South Korea, and the United States. The program’s feature work, “Lluvia,” translates to “Rain.” “Born on a gray day of pure melancholy,” Yerbabuena says this original, moving work “is a tribute to melancholy and coldness, to being alive, to the endlessness of life.” She has won three MAX Stage Arts Awards (2004, 2005, and 2010) and has achieved lifetime honors including the Spanish Ministry of

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Culture’s Premio Nacional de Danza (2001), the Andalusian Medalla de Cultura (2007), and Premio Compás del Cante (2010).

The Grenada-born daughter of flamenco singer Enrique Morente and dancer Aurora Carbonell, Estrella Morente has been performing since age seven and made her solo debut at 17. With a wealth of knowledge, background, and intuition that only her musically-inclined family could provide, Morente is not averse to combining popular and traditional sounds in the same program. “Every time Estrella takes a stage to sing, the place becomes a theatre or an arena, whether in a tablao, on film, or in any performance,” said director and producer Fernando Trueba. “She is archaic and futuristic at the same time.” Mujeres (2006), her third album, was nominated for a Latin Grammy award. Prior to this nomination, Morente was best known in the United States for contributions to Pedro Almodóvar’s film Volver (2006), which featured actress Penelope Cruz. She was again shortlisted for a Latin Grammy award this past year for her 2012 album Autorretrato.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for Ballet Flamenco Eva Yerbabuena on Wednesday, March 12 range from $22.00 to $58.00 and are subject to change. Tickets for Estrella Morente on Friday, March 14 range from $18.00 to $48.00 and are subject to change. Both concerts begin at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at http://www.calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their major support of the 2013—2014 Season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Wednesday, March 12, at 8:00 p.m. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

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World Stage
Focus on Flamenco
Eva Yerbabuena, dancer and choreographer
Lorena Franco, dancer
Mercedes de Córdoba, dancer
Christian Lozano, dancer
Eduardo Guerrero, dancer
Paco Jarana, guitar

Program:
*Lluvia*
El sin fin de la vida (Trémolo)
Peldaño (transición)
Barro (taranta)
Soledades (milonga)
Palabras rotas (frecuencias)
La querendona (tanguillos)
Lluvia de sal (alegrías)
Llanto (solea)

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Friday, March 18, at 8:00 p.m.   Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
                                      Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

World Stage
Focus on Flamenco
Estrella Morente, vocals
José Carbonell “Montoyita”, guitar
José Carbonell Serrano “Monti”, guitar
Antonio Carbonell, palmas, vocals
Enrique Morente Carbonell “Kiki,” *palmas* (hand clap), vocals

Program:
Pregón
Requiem
Habanera
Tangos Toreros
Granaína
Seguiriyá
Instrumental
En un sueño vinistes
La Estrella
Sevillanas a Lola
Bulería de la corriente

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