

Dan Zanes and Friends

Saturday and Sunday, November 29–30, 2003
Zellerbach Hall

Featuring
Colin Brooks, Barbara Brousal, Rachelle Garniez, Yoshi Waki,
and special guest Rankin Don (a.k.a. Father Goose)

This performance will last approximately one hour. There will be no intermission.

Worldwide Tour Management:
Pomegranate Arts

The Fall 2003 tour of Dan Zanes and Friends is made possible by Annie's Homegrown, makers of all-natural and organic mac and cheese, boxed pasta, and cheddar bunny crackers. This performance by Dan Zanes and Friends is sponsored, in part, by Wells Fargo.

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Thank you for coming out to sing, dance, and laugh with us. I hope that when you look up at the stage and see the band throwing themselves into these songs you can picture yourself making music, too. It could be a couple of neighbors on the front steps stamping their feet and clapping their hands to "Miss Mary Mack"; it could be a mother teaching her daughter two chords on the banjo (or maybe the daughter is doing the teaching); it could be a gang of three-year-olds holding hands and dancing in a circle while someone's father tries to make it through a Grateful Dead song on guitar; it could be a second grader and a teenager rapping over the sound of the local beat boxers while a grandmother plays the cuatro.

Whatever shape it takes, music is easy to make, it's fun, and it brings people together. Thank you for joining in today. I hope that when you leave here, you keep on making some music of your own.

I'll be listening.

Love,
Dan Zanes

Dan Zanes was born in Exeter, New Hampshire, in 1961, and spent time being a kid, first in Texas and then in Fredericton, New Brunswick, where he can still remember enjoying ice hockey and Gordon Lightfoot. He ended up living on the edge of Concord, New Hampshire, where there were ponds and fields, and where today his mom, a photographer, still runs a soup kitchen.

Dan picked up the guitar when he was eight and began taking Leadbelly records out of the public library as soon as he was old enough to get a library card; according to his mother, "He was always very musical." But it was not until one night in junior high school, while baby sitting at a house that had some old Chuck Berry records, that he fell in love with rock and roll. He was soon in a rock and roll band, the name of which he declines to recall, and when he won a scholarship to Phillips Academy, in Andover, Massachusetts, he was in another band for "about five minutes."

In 1981, Dan went off to Oberlin College in Ohio, where his number one goal was to start a really cool band. In the breakfast line, on the very first day at Oberlin, he met Tom Lloyd. Zanes and Lloyd

took their breakfast back to the dorm and right then and there started a band. They soon left school and headed to Boston (“It was between Boston and Austin,” according to Zanes), where they became known as the Del Fuegos. The Del Fuegos played in lofts, bars, small art galleries, clubs, barns, college dining halls, fraternity houses, gymnasiums, auditoriums, and, finally, big theaters.

Rolling Stone named the Del Fuegos the “Best New Band” in 1984. Once, Bruce Springsteen jumped on stage to play “Hang on Sloopy” with them. As a Del Fuego, Zanes made several records—The Longest Day (1984), Boston, Mass (1985), Stand Up (1987), Smoking in the Fields (1989)—and had a hit single, “Don’t Run Wild.” In 1987, Zanes married Paula Grief, the director of the video for the Del Fuegos song “I Still Want You.”

In 1991, after the Del Fuegos had broken up, Zanes and his wife moved to Cornwallville, New York, in the Catskills. There, Zanes grew chard, chopped firewood, and listened to a lot of gospel groups from the 1940s and 1950s, including some of his favorites, Dorothy Love Coates, The Swan Silvertones, and The Five Blind Boys from Alabama. He learned how to record music on his own and made a solo album called Cool Down Time.

When he and Paula had a baby, they all moved back to New York City. Dan subsequently began playing music with a bunch of fathers that he had run into on West Village playgrounds while they were all playing with and/or standing around and watching their kids. The fathers playing music together eventually became The Wonderland String Band, which played at parks and parties and on a tape of songs that Zanes started to record at home.

The tape was a hit locally—that is, on the 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. So, he added a small number of women to his band (“I realized I was ignoring half my audience,” he recalls), renamed it the Rocket Ship Revue, and began making a full-fledged homemade CD, enlisting the help of some people he had met when he was a Del Fuego—Sheryl Crow, Suzanne Vega, and Simon Kirke, the drummer for Bad Company, for instance.

The CD, Rocket Ship Beach, was also a hit. The New York Times Magazine called it “cool,” and added, “Mostly, though, Zanes’ kids music works because it is not kids music; it’s just music—music that’s unsanitized, unpasteurized, that’s organic even.” The second album, Family Dance (2001), is comprised of dance songs from a wide variety of musical traditions, and features Loudon Wainwright III and Roseanne Cash. Dan Zanes and Friends’ next effort, Nighttime! (2002), is a little bit more mellow; on it, Dan collaborated with Aimee Mann, Lou Reed, John Doe, Dar Williams, and others.

Dan’s newest CD, House Party, is a rambunctious 20-song collection with diverse instrumentation that, in addition to the usual guitars, banjos, upright bass, and drums, includes such wild instruments as tuba, accordion, pump organ, djembe, and saw. It’s an album brimming with songs—the way a house party brims with people—in part because Dan invited friends and neighbors and all kinds to come in and play and sing. Some of the people who ended up dropping by are: Deborah Harry, Angelique Kidjo, Grateful Dead’s Bob Weir, English folk singer David Jones, and Philip Glass, as well as the Rubí Theater Company, Rankin’ Don (a.k.a. Father Goose), and others.

More than a single celebratory event, House Party evokes a state of mind, indeed a whole world view—or at least how Dan was feeling right after the party was over, just before he went to bed. Either way, Dan is hoping that, after they hear House Party, people will feel the way he feels about people getting together and making music. He calls House Party “the musical version of the world I want to see all around me,” which is pretty much an all-inclusive world filled with friends and gatherings and gardens and lots of fun and food. And, of course, music!

Colin Brooks (drums) began playing drums at the age of seven. Growing up in Little Rock, Arkansas, his interest in music was cultivated by a supportive family and the Little Rock community. By the age of 14, Colin was playing drums professionally in the band The Numskulz, in and around Little Rock and at the South-by-South West Music Conference. In 1998, Colin moved to New York City and joined the band Skeleton Key, which appeared on the television series Trinity and toured Europe with the band Primus. Then, Colin toured Australia and New Zealand with singer

Bic Runga. Since his move to New York City, Colin has played with singers Dana Fuchs and Serena Jost, and with the band Betty. In addition, he played in the off-Broadway musical *Betty Rules*. Colin plays in two Brooklyn-based bands, AM Gold and Searay (which recently toured cities in the South with the band Longwave). Colin also plays drums for television commercials and jingles. He is grateful to his family and to his hometown for being so encouraging. He would also like to thank Dan Zanes and Friends for having him along.

Barbara Brousal (guitar, mandolin, vocals), a Brooklyn-based singer and songwriter, has been playing music with Dan since the 2000 release of *Rocket Ship Beach*. She has released three solo records: *Breathing Down Your Neck* (Magruder 2-1, 1996), *Pose While It Pops* (Love Letter Bomb, 2000), and *Just About Perfect* (LLB, 2002). She was a finalist in the 2000 Oxygen Media Roxygen Contest for emerging female talent, and has sung harmony vocals on records by The Hangdogs, Kevin Johnson, and Long River Train, as well as all of the Dan Zanes and Friends recordings. In 2001, she composed music for Melissa James Gibson's play *Brooklyn Bridge*, which will be produced by the Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis in the 2003–2004 season. For more information, please visit www.barbarabrousal.com.

Rachelle Garniez (accordion, vocals) is a native New Yorker. She plays, writes, and performs music in a variety of situations and has been doing so off and on for several years. Most recently, she performed her tunes in a special concert together with her mother at Carnegie Hall. Rachelle has recorded two CDs with her band, The Fortunate Few, and will be releasing a third in January. She is thrilled and delighted to be playing with Dan Zanes and Friends.

Rankin Don, a.k.a Father Goose (vocals) recalls that when he was a young boy, his sister insisted that he should be involved with music. Being too young to go to the clubs, he recalls his first experiences and interactions with music as using a mic and singing along with recordings. All this before the age of 13! That is when it all started.

Notorious Bugs from Gyasi Record Label urged him to record for the mainstream. Rankin Don was already an underground superstar in Jamaica and on the streets of Brooklyn. That is where and when he recorded hits like "Cant Find Me Love" and "Sex You Up," and the big hit "Baddest DJ," which sold over 100,000 copies in the United States and abroad.

A year after "Baddest DJ," "Real McCoy" was pressed. Known for its unique flavor and jovial hook (Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah!), it took the Caribbean and the US by storm, selling over 250,000 copies. Rankin Don also recorded "The Big Race" with Roundhead, Screechie Don, General B, and Baja Jedd. He has performed with the best of the best, including, Freddie McGregor, Gregory Isaacs, 2002 Grammy nominee Beres Hammond, and past Grammy winners Shabba Ranks, Shaggy, and Beenie Man.

Rankin Don is now a producer for Rock Tower Studios, known for its rich history in the foundation of reggae music. His newest album, *It's Time*, will be released in time for spring. Like the hands on a clock, expect to hear *It's Time* being rotated on turntables 24/7. Also, look for collaborations with Little Lenny and Ricky Ten. Check out Rankin Don's newest single, "One More Chance."

In his other life as Father Goose, Rankin Don appears on all of the CD releases by Dan Zanes.

Yoshi Waki (bass) was born in 1969 in Fukuoka, Japan, and began to play jazz bass at the age of 20 while a student at Tokyo University. Over the next few years, he emerged as a sought-after accompanist, making regular appearances at major jazz clubs in Tokyo. After sitting in with saxophonist Joe Lovano in 1992, an enthusiastic Lovano recommended that Yoshi attend Berklee College of Music in Boston.

While at Berklee, he studied jazz and classical double bass with Dave Clark, Bruce Gertz, and Barry Smith. Yoshi performed in numerous concerts with acclaimed artists such as Gary Burton, John Scofield, Steve Turre, Cindy Blackman, Terri Lyne Carrington, Horasio Hernandez, and Walt

Weiskopf. In 1999, he graduated from Berklee and briefly studied with jazz bass maestro John Patitucci in New York.

Yoshi joined the first national tour company of the Tony Award-winning musical Fosse in 2000. His rhythm-section mate was Bobby Economou, former drummer of the rock group Blood Sweat & Tears. While on tour, Yoshi also accompanied a show called Perfectly Ridiculous for actor John Lithgow.

Yoshi has also performed with Ron Affif, Sheryl Bailey, Darren Barrett, Bruce Bartlett, The Big & Phat Jazz Orchestra, Leo Blanco, David Budway, Copley Chamber Players, George Colligan, Hal Crook, Suzanne Davis, Rick DiMuzio, Mike Fahn, George Garzone, Bob Guilotti, Ed Harlow and Nuage, Joe Hunt, Steve Hunt, Victor Jones, Rick Margitza, Dan Moretti, Nashua Symphony Orchestra, Tiger Okoshi, Rusty Scott, Bert Seager, Jimmy Slyde, Peter Stoltzman, Frank Tiberi (arranger/co-leader of the Woody Herman big band), Jerry Weldon, and Woody Williams.

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For more information on Dan Zanes and Friends, including upcoming tour dates,
and to purchase CDs, visit the website at www.festivalfive.com.