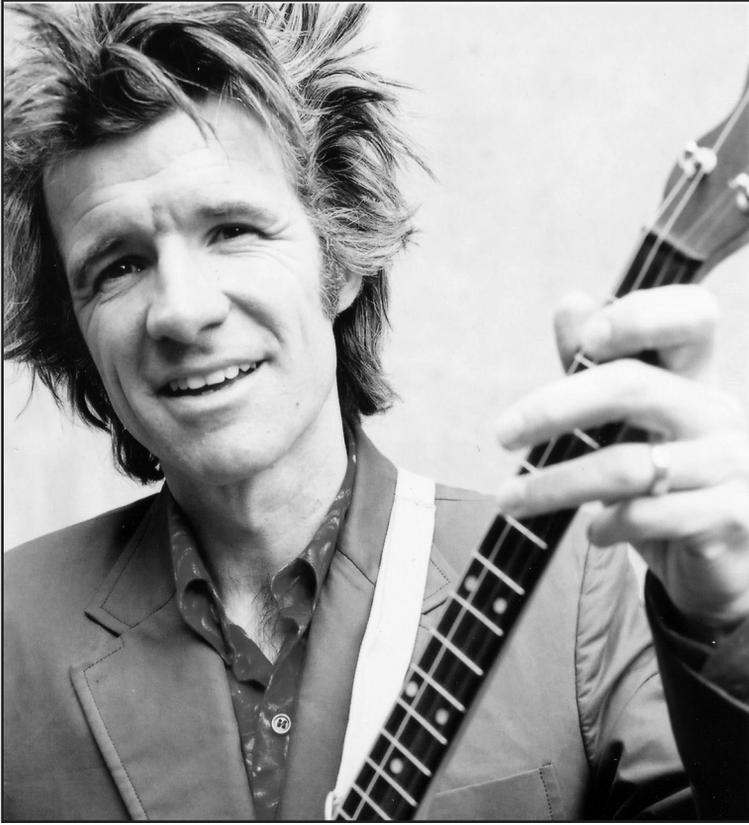


# CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS



## Dan Zanes and Friends

Sunday, December 12, 2004, 11 am and 3 pm  
Zellerbach Hall

*Featuring*

Colin Brooks, Barbara Brousal, Cynthia Hopkins, 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

*Dan Zanes and Friends 2004 tour is sponsored by Bright Horizons Family Solutions  
and Annie's Homegrown, makers of all-natural and organic macaroni and cheese,  
boxed pasta, and cheddar bunny crackers.*

*Cal Performances thanks the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Wallace Foundation,  
and the Zellerbach Family Foundation for their generous support.*

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

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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’s 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

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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**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.

He 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 babysitting 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 and 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 “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 Greif, 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, N.Y. in the Catskills. There, Zanes grew chard, chopped firewood, and listened to a lot of gospel groups from the forties and fifties, 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 his wife, 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—i.e. on the playgrounds where he and his daughter played—and Zanes realized that he liked making music

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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’d 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. The third recording, *Nighttime!* (2002) is a little bit more mellow, maybe not bedtime music but at the very least dinner music; on it, Dan collaborated with Aimee Mann, Lou Reed, John Doe, Dar Williams and others.

The most recent CD in the family series is *House Party* (2003), a rambunctious 20-song collection with a 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 of people to drop in and play and sing. Some of the people who ended up dropping by are: Deborah Harry, Angélique Kidjo, Grateful Dead’s Bob Weir, English folksinger David Jones, and Philip Glass, as well as the Rubí Theater Company, and Rankin’ Don (a.k.a. Father Goose).

More than a single celebratory event, *House Party* evokes a state of mind, indeed a whole worldview—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 people will feel the way he feels about getting together and making music after they hear *House Party*. He calls it “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.

This year, 2004, has been the year of the Folk Series. *Sea Music* was released in the spring with a little trepidation on Dan’s part. “I felt that this was possibly our most soulful record but was concerned that there would be a bit of mutiny, if you’ll pardon the expression, when people saw that it was a collection of traditional maritime songs including drinking, drowning, homesickness, and talking fish.” The reaction has been completely positive, a further testament to the idea that Dan’s fans may be as interested in new handmade versions of beautiful old songs as he is. *Sea Music* also appeared in the *Rolling Stone* Hot Issue under the heading “Hot Maritime Sounds,” quite possibly the first time a record of songs from the golden age of sail has been honored in that magazine.

The second CD in the series, *Parades and Panoramas: 25 Songs Collected by Carl Sandburg for The American Songbag*, was released in the fall of 2004. It’s a modern, folk record based on the classic 1927 songbook. Dan and his usual scruffy troupe of singers and musicians drag these old-time songs kicking and screaming into the 21st century – with acoustic arrangement, with traditional instruments, with tuba-driven electric guitars. It’s folk music for the un-folked; traditional music for rock ‘n’ rollers. It’s music appropriate for all ages, though adults and teenagers may not want to share.

*Parades and Panoramas* is packaged with a 60-page full-color booklet which includes lyrics, chords, Carl Sandburg’s writings about the songs, additional thoughts by Dan Zanes, and wild historical photos of American musicians from the turn of the last century. It has been featured on NPR’s *All Things Considered* and *The Diane Rehm Show*.

The Dan Zanes story had a lot to do with a rock and roller who started a label for family music, brought funny guests into the mix, sold a lot of records, and toured the country with his spirited and soulful band. Now the story has evolved as the music has evolved. In the process of digging up old songs for the family music CDs (while writing many new ones, it should be said) Dan has rediscovered the traditional music that

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was so inspirational to him when he was growing up. It's being turned on its head and brought into the new century as he and his musical comrades take the songs from the past and sing and dance them into the musical future as a shared experience for people of all ages.

As the year 2004 winds down, Dan Zanes and Friends' videos are being played on *Sesame Street* and *Noggin*. A DVD is planned for the upcoming spring and "Hello Hello," the first book collaboration from Dan and artist Donald Saaf, has been released by Little, Brown and Company. Dan still has time to hang around and play banjo with his friends and neighbors.

**Colin Brooks** (*drums*) began playing drums at 7 years of age. Growing up in Little Rock, Arkansas, his interest in music was cultivated by a supportive family and the Little Rock community. By age 14, Colin was playing drums professionally in the band, "The Numskulz," Little Rock, and at the South by Southwest 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. After touring Europe, Colin toured Australia and New Zealand with singer Bic Runga. Since his move to NYC, Colin has played with singers such as Dana Fuchs, Serena Jost, and with the band Betty. In addition, Colin played in the off-Broadway Musical, *Betty Rules*. He has just returned from a seven-week tour of North America with his chamber-pop combo Sea Ray. He is grateful to his family and to his hometown for being so encouraging, and would 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 the new *Just About Perfect* (Love Letter Bomb 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 three of the Dan Zanes and Friends releases. In 2001 she composed music for Melissa James Gibson's play *Brooklyn Bridge*, which was produced by the Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis in the 2003-04 season. For more information, please visit [www.barbarabrousal.com](http://www.barbarabrousal.com).

**Cynthia Hopkins** (*accordion, saw, vocals*) has composed and performed for many theater and film projects, including Big Dance Theater's *Another Telepathic Thing*, for which she won an OBIE award for performance and a Bessie award for composition. She has co-created and composed several pieces with the collaborative theater group Transmission Projects, including *Compress Your Dreams* (March 2003, Gale Gates et al). She is working on an operetta called *Accidental Nostalgia*, which she developed in part during a residency at AS220, which was performed as part of the Whitney Performance Series at Altria in April 2003 and at MASS MoCA in September 2003. It premiered at St. Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn, NY in March 2004, and was also performed at On the Boards in Seattle, Washington in June 2004. Ms. Hopkins founded the band Gloria Deluxe in the spring of 1999, and has since produced several albums and played at numerous venues including the Bowery Ballroom, the Celebrate Brooklyn! Festival, and MASS MoCA. The band's most recent album, *Alas Alack*, was released in October 2002. For information about Gloria Deluxe, visit [gloriadeluxe.com](http://gloriadeluxe.com). Ms. Hopkins is also currently working on a music composition commissioned by Bang on a Can, which is scheduled to be performed in 2005.

**Rankin' Don a.k.a. Father Goose** (*vocals*) recalls that when he was a young boy his sister was persistent that he should be involved with music. Being too young to go to the clubs and fetes at the time, he had his first experiences with music using a mic and singing covers. He was already an underground superstar in Jamaica and the streets of Brooklyn when Notorious Bugs from Gyasi Record Label urged him to record for the mainstream. That is where he recorded the big hit *Baddest DJ*, which sold more than 100,000 copies in the US and

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abroad. A year after, the *Real McCoy* was pressed. Known for its unique flavor and jovial hook, it sold more than 250,000 copies. He also recorded *The Big Race* with Roundhead, Screchie Don, General B, and Baja Jedd, and has performed with the best of the best, including Freddie McGregor, Gregory Isaacs, 2002 Grammy nominee Beres Hammond and past Grammy award winners Shabba Ranks, Shaggy and Beenie Man. He 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. In his other life as Father Goose, he appears on all four 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, with regular appearances at major jazz clubs in Tokyo. In 1999 Yoshi graduated from Berklee College of Music with the Outstanding Performer Award and briefly studied with jazz bass maestro John Patitucci in New York. While at Berklee he performed in numerous concerts with such acclaimed artists as Gary Burton, John Scofield, Steve Turre, Cindy Blackman, Terri Lyne Carrington, Horasio Hernandez, Walt Weiskopf and others. After graduation he joined the first national tour company of the Tony Award-winning musical *Fosse* in fall 2000, while he also accompanied a show called *Perfectly Ridiculous*

for actor John Lithgow. Yoshi has 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, Woody Williams and others.

### **For Dan Zanes and Friends:**

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