

Saturday, March 6, 2010, 11am & 4pm
 Sunday, March 7, 2010, 3pm
 Zellerbach Hall

Dan Zanes & Friends



Dan Zanes	<i>vocals, guitar, mandolin, banjo</i>
Colin Brooks	<i>drums, vocals</i>
Sonia de los Santos	<i>guitar, mandolin, vocals</i>
John Foti	<i>accordion, saxophone, vocals</i>
Saskia Lane	<i>bass, vocals</i>
Elena Moon Park	<i>violin, trumpet, vocals</i>

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Here are two things you should know right off about **Dan Zanes** (*vocals, guitar, mandolin, banjo*). Two things that set him apart from the huge and festive field of people who have in the past few years begun making music for families and people of all ages in a way that is changing the face of America, or the sound of it at least. First, he is making homemade family music and encouraging his friends and neighbors to do the same. Second, he is the guy who is always interested in singing along with people everywhere, which brings us to his mission, if you can call it a mission: Mr. Zanes is introducing his musical friends to his neighborhood friends and then showing everybody not just that they can play together but that they can also feel pretty good while doing so. In this sense, Mr. Zanes is a 21st-century version of the guy, who in the old days, used to conduct the town band from the gazebo though in lieu of a gazebo plays places like Carnegie Hall and the Melbourne International Arts Festival where no matter how you say it, good music is good. He is a ringmaster, introducing new songs and reconnecting people to songs that have always been there, and still are—it's just that people forgot about them.

Take, for example, Dan Zanes and Friends' *Catch That Train!*, the 2007 Grammy Award winner for Best Musical Album for Children

(co-released by Starbucks/Hear Music). It is the one CD in America today that brings together the Kronos Quartet, the Blind Boys of Alabama, Father Goose, Mr. Zanes's mother-in-law and the children of South Africa's Agape Orphanage to sing Zulu folk songs, an old labor organizing tune, a song about the joys of farming the English countryside, and of course a few train songs—all in an instrumental mix that highlights *cuatros* and lap steels and does not in any way discourage the use of trombone.

Speaking of trombones, his latest album, *76 Trombones*, is a collection of classic Broadway tunes from Sir Paul McCartney's MPL Music Publishing catalog. Joined by Tony Award-winners Carol Channing, Matthew Broderick and Brian Stokes-Mitchell, these timeless songs were stripped down to their ragged essence and re-worked as 21st-century all-ages music, introducing a new generation to the classic Broadway that everyone knows and loves. Proceeds from *76 Trombones* benefit Rosie's Broadway Kids, founded in 2003 by Rosie O'Donnell, an organization dedicated to providing quality instruction in music and dance at no cost to public schools and students in New York City.

Two thousand nine also saw the arrival of *The Fine Friends Are Here!*, Dan Zanes and Friends' first live DVD in over four years. Filmed at the Jalopy Theater in Brooklyn, *Fine Friends* showcases what the band's trademark rollicking concerts are all about and allows kids and fans alike to participate in the wildly popular and regularly sold out experience. The DVD set also includes three animated videos and four new, unreleased solo recordings with proceeds going to benefit the Mario Batali Foundation, striving to ensure all children are well read, well fed and well cared for.

One of Mr. Zanes's favorite recording projects is *¡Nueva York!*, or what he is often heard calling his "pro-immigration CD." While the debate about who is eligible to live in the United States rages on, Mr. Zanes has been having a rocking time with new musical friends from the Latino world, celebrating some of the vibrant culture that comes with immigration. The result: a collection of songs from Puerto Rico, Mexico, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and other parts of the

Spanish-speaking Americas which was released in the summer of 2008 and received an Independent Music Award.

The Welcome Table: Songs of Inspiration, Mystery and Good Times is a collection of old and (mostly) new Dan Zanes and Friends recordings of tunes drawn primarily from North American gospel traditions put together in 2008 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 our immigrant brothers and sisters living in the United States.

Keeping things all in the family, Mr. Zanes also spent some time in 2007 with bandmate Father Goose (a.k.a. Wayne Rhoden) and long-time recording ally Rob Friedman co-producing *It's a Bam Bam Diddy!* A musical memoir of sorts, this album sounds very much like the most incredible block party stretching from Jamaica to Brooklyn and spilling out into neighborhoods around the globe, filled with Caribbean flavors and a cavalcade of great guests including Sister Carol, Sheryl Crow, Wayne Smith, Ansel Meditation and Mr. Zanes himself.

Lately, Mr. Zanes has been spending his spare time with Spanish dictionaries listening to *salsa* or *merengue* or *norteño* or anything along those lines and writing songs for films like *Wonderful World* directed by Josh Goldin (and even making a cameo appearance here and there like he did in *Wonderful World* and *Revolutionary Road* directed by Sam Mendes.)

For the record, Mr. Zanes was born in Exeter, New Hampshire in 1961. He was a member of the Del Fuegos from the beginning to the end of the 1980s and with them made *The Longest Day* (1984), *Boston, Mass* (1985), *Stand Up* (1987), *Smoking in the Fields* (1989) and the hit single, “Don’t Run Wild.” In 1994, he released a solo CD, *Cool Down Time*, shortly after which he moved to Brooklyn, New York, with his wife and daughter, where he then released *Rocket Ship Beach* (2000), which became an immediate hit with families around America. His next CD, *Family Dance* (2001), features Loudon Wainwright III, Roseanne Cash and a lot of dancing that you cannot actually see but

you can imagine. Next in the Festival Five family series came *Night Time!* (2002), featuring collaborations with Aimee Mann and Lou Reed, followed by the Grammy-nominated *House Party* (2003), a rambunctious 20-song collection that includes Deborah Harry, Bob Weir and Philip Glass, as well as the Rubí Theater Company and Rankin Don (a.k.a. Father Goose). *Sea Music*, a collection of maritime songs that was the first CD in the Festival Five Folk Series and was cited in *Rolling Stone's* “Hot Issue” in the category of Hot Maritime Sounds. The next CD in the folk series—*Parades and Panoramas: 25 Songs Collected by Carl Sandburg for the American Songbag*—is the disc on which Mr. Zanes’s scruffy troupe of musicians dragged the poet’s 1927 collection of songs kicking and screaming into this century, with traditional instruments, tuba-driven electric guitars, whatever it takes.

And while no one was looking Mr. Zanes co-authored two picture book collaborations with the artist Donald Saaf: *Jump Up!* and *Hello Hello* (Little, Brown and Company Books), and appeared in the Dan Zanes and Friends concert DVD, *All Around the Kitchen!* (2005), recorded at the Knitting Factory in New York City.

Colin Brooks (*drums, vocals*) started out playing piano at age five. By age seven, he was jamming with his father, a self-taught electric guitar player, on the drums. By age 14, he was drumming in a punk rock band with some friends in Little Rock, Arkansas, called the Numbskulz. After playing around the United States with the Numbskulz and several other Little Rock-based bands (Substance, 2 Minutes Hate, ho-hum and The Big Cats), he headed for New York City to join Skeleton Key. After that band toured Europe with Primus, Mr. Brooks was offered the drum seat with New Zealand singer Bic Runga, with whom he toured Australia and New Zealand. Upon returning to New York, he began playing with local singers Serena Jost and Dana Fuchs, while drumming on jingles and playing in the off-Broadway musical *Betty Rules*. He also joined a Brooklyn-based band called Sea Ray. Sea Ray toured the United States and Canada extensively and played many New York-area shows. The group disbanded in January 2005. Mr. Brooks

next went to Montreal to record with The Stills; his drumming can currently be heard on their latest album, *Without Feathers*. He has most recently finished an album with his longtime band in Little Rock, The Big Cats.

Sonia de los Santos (*guitar, mandolin, vocals*) was born in Monterrey, Mexico. She has received lyrics and interpretation awards for her compositions on Dos Niñas Mas at the National Festival de la Canción of the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey. As an actress, Ms. De los Santos has toured nationally in Mexico with *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Ms. De los Santos and has played Hodl in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Lucy Harris in *Jekyll & Hyde* and Connie in *A Chorus Line*. She was the lead singer in *Revolution* at the Joyce Theater (New York City) in 2007. During her time as lead singer of the rock band Esfera, Ms. De los Santos took on the role of composer for their debut album *Reflection* (2001). In 2002, she joined Shot, a pop group out of her hometown. She is an alumna of Circle in the Square Theater School in New York and holds a B.A. in communications and mass media from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey.

John Foti (*accordion, saxophone vocals*) was born in West Caldwell, New Jersey. His first musical experience was figuring out the *Sesame Street* theme song at a young age. Inspired by his father and older sister, Mr. Foti went on to take piano lessons through college—even when some kids said it “wasn’t cool” to play piano. John thought it was cool and kept playing. Speaking of cool, Mr. Foti is thrilled to be part of Dan Zanes and Friends—playing perhaps the coolest instrument this side of the Mississippi—the accordion! Hobbies include thinking, writing music and poetry, sleeping, worrying about what the Yankees score is, running and watching Jim Henson’s *Emmet Otter’s Jug-Band Christmas*.

Saskia Lane (*bass, vocals*) was born and raised in San Francisco, California. Ms. Lane picked up her first stringed instrument at age four: the violin. Quickly realizing that the fiddle was far too small for such a big personality, Ms. Lane switched to

the stand-up bass the day she turned 11. Though she could not yet lift it without help, she embarked on an intensive course of study and has been at it ever since. In 1997, she jumped the train to New York City where she earned her master’s degree in double-bass performance from The Juilliard School. The Manhattan-based musician performs throughout the tri-state area with a variety of jazz, pop and classical artists. Ms. Lane askia has also been active in education and outreach, working as a teaching artist for the 92nd Street Y, and performing in the Carnegie Hall Neighborhood Concert Series. Her television credits include a national commercial for Chili’s Restaurants and appearances on the Discovery Channel, the Food Network, Fuse TV and *The CBS Evening News*, and can be seen in the movie *Mona Lisa Smiles*, featuring Julia Roberts. Her discography includes recordings with Nicole Paiement, featuring the work of Lou Harrison (New Albion Records); the Gotham Ensemble (Albany Records); and three albums and a concert DVD (Eastway Records) with her critically acclaimed cocktail pop quartet, The Lascivious Biddies.

Elena Moon Park (*violin, trumpet, vocals*) hails from Oak Ridge, Tennessee. She began playing the violin and dancing at a young age. She played classical music for many years, until college drew her attention to traveling to far off places, going on long hiking trips, learning music and dance from other countries, and studying American history. After her adventures, she was anxious to play the violin again and make fun, spontaneous music with many different musicians. Elena lived in the hills of Tennessee and the flatlands of Chicago before proudly calling Brooklyn, New York, her home. Her interests include dancing, singing, playing the ukelele, helping to achieve equitable development in urban America, supporting the arts, and Sam Cooke’s “A Change Is Gonna Come.” She is very excited to be playing with Dan Zanes and Friends.