

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

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**DAN ZANES & FRIENDS ROCK THE WHOLE FAMILY
THANKSGIVING WEEKEND (NOVEMBER 29 & 30) AT ZELLERBACH HALL!**

Cal Performances presents first Bay Area appearance of former Del Fuegos frontman Dan Zanes and his singular brand of kid-oriented rock and folk music

SCHOOLTIME: Special 1-hour show for students, Monday, December 1 at 11:00 a.m.

BERKELEY, October 29, 2003 – **Dan Zanes & Friends** make their Bay Area debut Thanksgiving weekend, performing two shows of exuberant roots music the entire family can groove to **Saturday, November 29 at 2:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, November 30 at 3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Formerly the lead singer of alternative '80s rock band the Del Fuegos, **Dan Zanes** has found a second calling creating his own style of rock and folk music for young people. "A leading light in the recent movement of underground rockers making cool children's music" (*Chicago Sun Times*), Zanes and his spirited group of Brooklyn-based musicians perform updated versions of traditional American folk songs, dance classics, globally-influenced jams and an ever-increasing number of originals. **Colin Brooks** (percussion), **Barbara Brousal** (guitar, mandolin, vocals), **Cynthia Hopkins** (accordion, saw, vocals), **Yoshi Waki** (bass), and rapper **Rankin' Don** (a.k.a. Father Goose) join Zanes (lead vocals, mandolin, banjo, electric guitar) on stage.

Dan Zanes & Friends will give a one-hour *SchoolTime* performance for Bay Area students, Monday, December 1 at 11:00 a.m. in Zellerbach Hall. The performances on November 29 & 30 are Family Fare shows: children 16 and under receive a 50% discount.

Born in 1961 in Exeter, New Hampshire, **Dan Zanes** first picked up a 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. He was in a series of bands throughout high school, and eventually founded the Del Fuegos in 1981 with a few friends from Oberlin College in Ohio, a band that later put its roots down in Boston. As a Del Fuego, Zanes made several records—*The Longest Day* (1984), *Boston*,

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Mass (1985), *Stand Up* (1987), and *Smoking in the Fields* (1989)—and the band garnered considerable acclaim in the rock world. *Rolling Stone* named the Del Fuegos the best new band of 1984. But by 1991 the Del Fuegos had run its course, and Zanes switched gears and moved to Cornwallville, New York, in the Catskills, and learned how to record music on his own. During this time he made a solo album called *Cool Down Time*.

When Zanes and his wife Paula had a baby, they moved back to New York City. Zanes began playing music with a bunch of fathers he had run into on West Village playgrounds, and under the name the Wonderland String Band the dads played gigs at parks and parties and eventually Zanes produced a tape of the band. The tape was a hit locally—i.e., on the neighborhood 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 more female members to the band and renamed it the Rocket Ship Revue, and began making a full-fledged homemade recording, enlisting the help of people he'd met when he was a Del Fuego—Sheryl Crow, Suzanne Vega, and Simon Kirke (the drummer for Bad Company), among others. The resulting CD, *Rocket Ship Beach*, released in 2000, was 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...organic.” Zanes’ second CD, *Family Dance*, released in 2001, enlisted the help of Loudon Wainwright III, Sandra Bernhard and Roseanne Cash. And a third, *Night Time!* (2002), boasted an even longer list of collaborators: Aimee Mann, Lou Reed, former X frontman John Doe, and Dar Williams contributed originals and familiar songs such as Louis Armstrong’s *It’s a Wonderful World* and Woody Guthrie’s *So Long*, *It’s Been Good to Know Yuh*, and the traditional melody *Wild Mountain Thyme*. “This rock veteran reinvents children’s music,” writes the *Nashville Scene*, “and parents everywhere are thankful.”

On October 7, 2003 Dan Zanes & Friends released their most recent CD (all recordings are released on Zanes’ own Festival Five Records), *House Party*. Zanes and Grateful Dead legend Bob Weir reinterpret the Carter Family classic *Wabash Cannonball*; Angelique Kidjo sings the Harry Belafonte hit *Jamaica Farewell*; ex-Blondie chanteuse Debbie Harry joins in on a fiddle-filled version of *Waltzing Matilda*; and Philip Glass plays a portable Billhorn Brothers pump organ in the six-minute original *A Place for Us*. Members of Zanes’ band (the “Friends” who are performing in

Berkeley) contribute as well on the new recording: **Barbara Brousal** presents *Queremos Bailar*, an infectious dance tune sung in Spanish; **Cynthia Hopkins** leads the accordion-laced original *Surrounded by Friendship*; and upright bass player **Yoshi Waki** performs the Japanese coal miner song *Tankoh-Bushi*. The release of *House Party* occurs in the midst of Dan Zanes & Friends extensive U.S. tour, which includes many presenters of family programs, and some of the country's most prestigious performing arts centers. Of a recent live performance, the *Boston Herald* reported that "it was one of those rare children's concerts where the grown-ups clearly had as much fun as their toddlers."

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Dan Zanes & Friends** on **Saturday, November 29** at **2:00 p.m.** & **Sunday, November 30** at **3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$15.00** and **\$20.00**. Both performances are Family Fare shows: children 16 and under receive a 50% discount. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded).

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San Francisco Chronicle, *San Francisco* magazine, and KDFC Classical 102.1 FM are season media sponsors of Cal Performances' 2003/04 performing arts season.

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(calendar information next page)

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, November 29 at 2:00 p.m. [FF]
Sunday, November 30 at 3:00 p.m. [FF]

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

Family Fare
Dan Zanes & Friends

Program: Dan Zanes, former lead singer of the rock band the Del Fuegos, treats all ages to hip, updated versions of children's classics as well as his own eclectic material in two afternoon concerts over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Tickets: \$15.00 and \$20.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. *Both performances are Family Fare shows: children 16 and under receive a 50% discount.*

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Monday, December 1 at 11:00 a.m.
SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

Dan Zanes & Friends

Program: Dan Zanes and guests perform a special one-hour program of inventive renditions of American roots standards and his own winsome folk-inspired tunes, with a dash of rock n' roll thrown in for good measure.

Tickets: \$3.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-1082. *SchoolTime* performances are open to students in grades 2 through 12 in Bay Area public and private schools. Supplemental study guides for the classroom are provided. For more information about the *SchoolTime* program, contact the *SchoolTime* coordinator at Cal Performances by email at eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu, or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

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