

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

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**CAL PERFORMANCES' 2003/04 CELEBRACIÓN DE LAS CULTURAS DE IBEROAMÉRICA
PRESENTS THE REIGNING QUEEN OF *MORNA*, CESARIA EVORA
NOVEMBER 11 & 12 IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

Additional events on **Celebración de las Culturas de Iberoamérica**, a celebration of the performing arts of the Americas, Spain and Portugal, include **Juan Diego Flórez** (Jan. 6); **Paco de Lucía** (Jan. 24 & 25); **Ballet Flamenco Eva Yerbabuena** (Feb. 28 & 29); **¡Cubanismo!** (May 7); **Jordi Savall** (May 12) and **Hespèrion XXI** (May 14) in the 2003/04 season

BERKELEY, October 3 2003 – Cal Performances launches its second season of **Celebración de las Culturas de Iberoamérica** events with two Zellerbach Hall performances by Cape Verdean chanteuse **Cesaria Evora**, **Tuesday & Wednesday, November 11 & 12 at 8:00 p.m.** Initiated with the 2002/03 season, Cal Performances' **Celebración de las Culturas de Iberoamérica** is an annual series of events aimed at exploring the multitude of art forms and cultures of the Americas, Spain, and Portugal. In addition to presenting Bay Area audiences with a broad array of performing arts—from the traditional to the avant-garde—Cal Performances collaborates with community partners, and resident Latino artists and academics to further contextualize the influences of Latin American and Hispanic cultures. **Celebración de las Culturas de Iberoamérica** is designed to complement Cal Performances' current international programming goals with a cultural focus of particular interest to Bay Area audiences.

CESARIA EVORA

The one-and-only **Cesaria Evora** performs at Zellerbach Hall Tuesday & Wednesday, November 11 & 12 at 8:00 p.m. On the heels of the September 23 release of her first studio recording in two years, *Voz D'Amor* (Bluebird/Arista Records), Evora will perform the new material in concert, as well as favorites from the past. Hailing from Cape Verde, a small archipelago off the coast of Senegal, Evora has long been a master of *morna*—a musical tradition rooted in the everyday struggles of her people and the natural wonders of her islands, and steeped in the rhythms of the Portuguese *fado*, the Brazilian samba, and West African

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percussion. Most *mornas* are written and sung in Kriolu, a blend of Portuguese and West African language spoken in Cape Verde. A primary instrument in *morna* is the distinctive *cavaquinho*, a ukulele-like four-stringed instrument, and contemporary *mornas* may also use trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, electric guitar, keyboards, and other strings.

Though she had been singing since her teens, Evora didn't get her musical break until a few decades later, in the 1980s. She was plucked from obscurity out of a small club in Lisbon, when her voice captivated José Da Silva, a young Frenchman of Cape Verdean origin. He convinced her to travel with him to Paris to record, and a musical relationship between the two was born. In 1988, they made *La Diva aux Pieds Nus*, and in the ensuing years, *Distino di Belita* (1990) and *Mar Azul* (1991). But it was 1992's *Miss Perfumado* that made Evora an international star at age 52. She became widely embraced as the "Barefoot Diva," in literal reference to her style on stage. For the last decade she has recorded and toured continually (she last appeared at Cal Performances in October 2001). Her latest, *Voz de Amor*, was recorded in Paris and features a range of material in a variety of tempos and moods, featuring new songs by contemporary composers as well as melodies from her Cape Verdean youth.

2003/04 CELEBRACIÓN DE LAS CULTURAS DE IBEROAMÉRICA PROGRAMMING

In addition to the performances by Evora, Cal Performances presents six other events on the 2003/04 Celebración de las Culturas de Iberoamérica season. Peruvian opera sensation **Juan Diego Flórez**, a "simply dazzling" (*Opera News*) tenor who garnered much acclaim for his West Coast recital debut at Cal Performances last June and as Don Ramiro in *La Cenerentola* at the San Francisco Opera, returns for a second eagerly anticipated appearance in Zellerbach Hall (Tues., Jan. 6, 8:00 p.m.). Also in January, Cal Performances hosts virtuoso flamenco guitarist **Paco de Lucía** for two nights (Sat., Jan. 24, 8:00 p.m. & Sun., Jan. 25, 7:00 p.m.). Drawing from the musical traditions of Spanish, Gypsy, Sephardic and Muslim cultures, de Lucía advances the conventions of flamenco, fusing the genre with contemporary musical elements and jazz expressions. His phenomenal guitar performances have astounded audiences for decades: "Each note was like a diamond perfectly polished for the moment," wrote the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Flamenco sensation **Eva Yerbabuena**, winner of Spain's prestigious *Premio Nacional de Danza* in 2001, brings **Ballet Flamenco Eva Yerbabuena**, her company of six dancers and seven musicians, to Zellerbach Hall for their Bay Area debut (Sat., Feb. 28, 8:00 p.m. & Sun., Feb. 29, 7:00 p.m.). With a fierce reverence for the traditions of flamenco, Yerbabuena nonetheless takes the dance form in exciting new directions. "The hottest and brightest new talent from the Spanish scene," wrote *The Guardian* of the company's London debut. In May, **Jesús Alemañy's** 15-piece band **¡Cubanismo!** performs an exuberant and dynamic fusion of elegant *son* and red-hot jazz, arranged in Havana's *descarga* jam tradition (Fri., May 7, 8:00 p.m.). "I balance what's happening on the street, with the rhythmic, harmonic and melodic strengths of our Cuban cultural identity," says trumpet maestro Alemañy, formerly of the internationally renowned Sierra Maestra ensemble.

Also in May, Barcelona-based **Hespèrion XXI** and viola da gamba player **Jordi Savall** return to Cal Performances. One of the leading interpreters of early music, Savall performs in a solo concert Wednesday, May 12 at 8:00 p.m., returning Friday, May 14 at 8:00 p.m. with soprano Montserrat Figueras, Arianna Savall (voice and *arpa doppia*), Ferran Savall (voice, *guitarra* and *tiorba*), and Pedro Estevan (percussion). Both concerts will be held at First Congregational Church in Berkeley.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Mercedes Sosa on Wednesday, October 22 at 8:00 p.m.** and **Cesaria Evora on Tuesday & Wednesday, November 11 & 12 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$24.00, \$36.00 and \$48.00**. Tickets for all other **Celebración de las Culturas de Iberoamérica** events and **Cal Performances 2003/04 events** are available at the Cal Performances Ticket Office from 11:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Saturday (closed Sunday). Tickets are also available by phone at (510) 642-9988, by fax at (510) 643-2359, and at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu. A 10% discount on single ticket prices is available to patrons who choose any six events (excluding Special Events). UC Berkeley students receive a 50% discount on single ticket prices; UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2.00 discount; and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3.00 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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CAL PERFORMANCES'
2003/04 CELEBRACIÓN DE LAS CULTURAS DE IBEROAMÉRICA

CONCERT CANCELLED

Wednesday, October 22 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Mercedes Sosa

Tickets: Due to illness, Ms. Sosa has been forced to cancel her North American tour this fall. Patrons may request a refund or exchange tickets to another performance on the Cal Performances 2003/04 season.

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Tues. & Wed., November 11 & 12 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Cesaria Evora

Program: Beloved vocalist Cesaria Evora brings the rhythmic Cape Verdean song form called *morna* to Zellerbach Hall for two nights, performing material from her latest recording, *Voz de Amor*.

Tickets: **\$24.00, \$36.00 and \$48.00**, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; online at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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Tuesday, January 6 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Juan Diego Flórez, tenor

Program: Peruvian opera sensation Juan Diego Flórez returns to Zellerbach Hall, following his Bay Area recital debut at Cal Performances in the 2002/03 season.

Tickets: **\$32.00, \$42.00 and \$56.00**, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; online at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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Saturday, January 24 at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Paco de Lucía, guitar

Program: Fusing traditional Gypsy-inspired folk music of his Andalusian homeland with improvisation, de Lucía dazzles with sheer virtuosity, sensitivity, and flair.

Tickets: \$24.00, \$36.00 and \$48.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; online at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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Saturday, February 28 at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 29 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Ballet Flamenco Eva Yerbabuena

Program: Winner of Spain's prestigious National Award of Dance in 2001, flamenco sensation Eva Yerbabuena brings her company of six dancers and seven musicians to Zellerbach Hall for two nights.

Tickets: \$26.00, \$38.00 and \$48.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; online at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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Friday, May 7 at 8:00 p.m.

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

¡Cubanisimo!

Program: Trumpet player and vocalist Jesús Alemañy leads his 15-piece band through a dynamic evening of elegant Cuban *son* and freewheeling jazz, arranged in Havana's *descarga* (jam session) tradition.

Tickets: \$22.00, \$30.00 and \$42.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; online at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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Wednesday, May 12 at 8:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College, Berkeley

Jordi Savall, viola da gamba

Program: One of the world's leading interpreters of early music, viola da gamba virtuoso Jordi Savall performs a rare solo recital.

Tickets: \$32.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; online at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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Friday, May 14 at 8:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College, Berkeley

Hespérion XXI

Program: The Barcelona-based ensemble, renowned for its dynamic performances and bold interpretations of an astonishing range of ancient musical literature, returns to Berkeley.

Tickets: \$32.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; online at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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