

FOR IMMEDIATE
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CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
GYPSY SPIRIT, JOURNEY OF THE ROMA
A PROGRAM CELEBRATING THE MUSIC AND DANCE TRADITIONS OF THE GYPSY
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL

SCHOOLTIME: 1-Hour Show for School Students, Wednesday, February 11 at 11:00 a.m.

BERKELEY, January 5, 2004 – Trace the path of the Roma (Gypsy) migration from India, through the Middle East, and across Western Europe with the dancers and musicians of *Gypsy Spirit, Journey of the Roma*, coming to Zellerbach Hall **Wednesday, February 11 at 8:00 p.m.** Artistic director and renowned folkloric choreographer **Zoltán Zsuráfszki** leads the 14 dancers of the **Budapest Ensemble** and the 12 musicians of the **Gypsy Cimbalom Band** in a vibrant display of the rich culture of the Roma diaspora. The company will also give a *SchoolTime* performance for Bay Area students, Wednesday, February 11 at 11:00 a.m. in Zellerbach Hall.

The origins of the Gypsy people can be traced back to Northern India. Their migration to the West started over a thousand years ago for still unknown reasons. Today they are found in almost every country in Eastern, Central and Western Europe in addition to the United States. *Gypsy Spirit, Journey of the Roma* follows the route of the Gypsy, depicting some of the most dynamic styles of music and dance the Roma people adopted and made their own along the way. Beginning in India and proceeding to Turkey before traveling west across the European continent, the program features exotic Turkish music and dances, Spanish Flamenco, fiery Bulgarian footwork and melodies, Romanian songs, and refined performances of the *csárdá* (known regionally as the “tango of the East”) from Hungary and Transylvania—each a sample of the vibrant cultural treasures connected by the passion of the Gypsy.

The **Budapest Dance Ensemble** is one of the most acclaimed folk ensembles from Central Europe. Founded just after World War II, the troupe has played an important role in

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disseminating Hungarian and other Central European folk traditions through years of performing around the world. The Ensemble is dedicated to the preservation and performance of authentic folk dancing traditions while including adaptations to suit the performance requirements of the stage and contemporary audiences.

In 1991 **Zoltán Zsuráfszki** became artistic director of the Budapest Dance Ensemble. Zsuráfszki strives with his folk-inspired choreography to preserve cultural authenticity. His extensive field research in remote villages of the Carpathian Basin distinguish him among active artistic directors of professional folk ensembles. Also a principal soloist in the Budapest Dance Ensemble, Zsuráfszki is a leader in his generation of presenting folkdance on stage, revered for the boundless energy with which he performs. He is a graduate of the Hungarian State Ballet Institute, and has made innumerable field trips to learn from and dance with the remaining living practitioners of Hungarian dance. He has also traveled to neighboring countries to gain knowledge of a wide variety of dance traditions of the Romanians, Slovaks, Croatians, Poles (Gorals) and Germans.

Kálmán Balogh, musical director of the **Gypsy Cimbalom Band**, is an exceptional musician from a famous Gypsy musical dynasty. He is one of the most renowned *cimbalom* (Hungarian dulcimer) players in the world, and has been featured in numerous European festivals and has performed on the world's well-known classical concert stages. Similar to Zsuráfszki, Balogh travels extensively in order to study the indigenous music of the Roma people.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for *Gypsy Spirit, Journey of the Roma* on **Wednesday, February 11 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$22.00, \$28.00, and \$38.00**. 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). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Wednesday, February 11 at 11:00 a.m.
SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE

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

World Stage

Gypsy Spirit, Journey of the Roma

Program:

Special one-hour performance traces the Gypsy (Roma) diaspora from India to the Middle East and across Europe, with the Budapest Dance Ensemble illustrating Spanish flamenco and Hungarian dance forms, set to live Bulgarian melodies and Romanian folk tunes.

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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Wednesday, February 11 at 8:00 p.m.

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

World Stage

Gypsy Spirit, Journey of the Roma

Program:

The 27 musicians and dancers of the Budapest Dance Ensemble and the Gypsy Cimbalom Band perform a wide-ranging sampling of Gypsy traditions, including Spanish flamenco, Bulgarian melodies, Romanian folk songs, and improvisational Hungarian *csárdás*, the “tango of the East.”

Tickets: \$22.00, \$28.00 and \$38.00, 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.