

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

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**INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED FÈS FESTIVAL OF SACRED MUSIC IN MOROCCO BRINGS
THE SPIRIT OF FÈS FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, MARCH 20 AT 8:00 P.M. TO CAL PERFORMANCES**

**FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE VOCALIST FRANÇOISE ATLAN (ALGERIA);
THE MUSLIM ENSEMBLE HADRA DES FEMMES DE TAROUDANT (MOROCCO); THE
ANOINTED JACKSON SISTERS (NORTH CAROLINA); AND A SHORT FILM WHICH
OPENS THE PROGRAM AT 7:30 P.M.**

**COLLOQUIUM: Artists and scholars participate in “The Spirit of Fès: a Vision of Peace,” a
roundtable discussion moderated by UC Davis ethnomusicologist Sandra Graham
Saturday, March 20, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in UC Berkeley’s Morrison Hall**

BERKELEY, March 1, 2004 – In honor of the 10th anniversary of Morocco’s Fès Festival of Sacred Music—“one of the world’s great musical events” (*London Daily Telegraph*)—the **Spirit of Fès Festival** launches its first American tour and comes to Berkeley for one night only **Saturday, March 20 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Many of the artists on the Spirit of Fès Festival program have appeared at the Fès Festival in Morocco, a week-long musical event so influential and highly regarded that the United Nations has honored it as one of seven events in the world that most powerfully promotes cultural understanding through music. The Spirit of Fès Festival participants, representing musical traditions from a broad range of cultural backgrounds and religious faiths, include Algerian vocalist **Francoise Atlan**; dance, percussion and vocal ensemble **Hadra des Femmes de Taroudant** from Morocco; North Carolina’s seven-member gospel group **The Anointed Jackson Sisters**; Lebanese-American percussionist **Jamey Haddad**; Moroccan *oud* player **Farid El Foulahi**; and a Jewish and Muslim call to prayer performed by Palestinian peace activist **Yacoub Hussein** and Israeli artist and community leader **Gabriel Meyer** that opens the program. Additionally, *Sawt-e-Sarmad: The Sound That Intoxicates Man*, a short film shot by **Terrance Grace** at the 2003 Fès Festival in Morocco, will be shown at **7:30 p.m.** as the hall opens and patrons are settling into their seats.

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On Saturday, March 20 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Cal Performances sponsors “The Spirit of Fès: a Vision of Peace,” a roundtable discussion in 125 Morrison Hall on the UC Berkeley campus, moderated by UC Davis ethnomusicologist **Sandra Graham**. Artists, scholars, and festival organizers will discuss the history of the Fès Festival in Morocco, and the event’s impact on peace building and global dialogue through music. This event is free and open to the public.

SPIRIT OF FÈS FESTIVAL ARTISTS

Algerian singer **Françoise Atlan** is revered for her beautiful and expert interpretations of the repertoire of the Mediterranean region. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Prix de la Villa Médicis Hors les Murs, Grand Prix de l’Académie Charles Cros, the Diapason d’Or, and Choc du Monde de la Musique for her work from the Sephardic Jewish traditions of North Africa, Arab-Andalusia compositions, and ancient troubadour laments. Atlan has appeared at the Fès Festival in Morocco as a featured soloist with the Arab-Andalusian orchestra of Mohamed Briouel, and opened the 2003 Fès Festival with a performance of Goran Bregovic’s oratorio *Reconciliation*. In Berkeley Atlan is joined by **Jamey Haddad** on percussion and **Farid El Foulahi** on the *oud*.

Hadra des Femmes de Taroudant practices the ancient tribal traditions of music and dance native to the southern Taroudant region of Morocco. Among the exclusively female groups called *La’abat* (derived from the Arabic root to play, “la’aba”), these performers sing and dance during afternoon parties organized for other women. Their earthy poetry is expressed in song, often laced with humor, and covers a range of subjects universal to the human condition. Similar to the African *griot* or praise singing tradition, these all-female ensembles traditionally perform at important events which mark the cycles of life and bless the occasion. An important aspect of this tradition is singing praises to the region’s Islamic saints and mystical songs in praise of the Divine; it is this sacred music form that the Hadra des Femmes de Taroudant will present for the Spirit of Fès tour. The ensemble, a favorite with European festival audiences, was featured at Morocco’s Fès Festival in 2003. The Spirit of Fès tour marks their American debut.

Representing the African American gospel tradition, **The Anointed Jackson Sisters** are native North Carolinians, the seven daughters of Pastor Carlton Jackson, Sr. As a group they have

performed in many festivals on the American gospel circuit, including the Bobby Jones Gospel Explosion and the New Orleans Jazz Heritage Festival in 2001 and 2002. Their music, while rooted in traditional gospel, incorporates other styles like jazz and R&B. The Jackson Sisters—**Barbara, Carlann, Catrina, Catharina, Doris, Maria, and Pam**—are accompanied by **Ronald Fredricks** (guitar), **Murle Hinton** (bass), **Edwin Mitchell** (keyboard), and **Antonio Jackson** (drums) in Berkeley. In 2003, the ensemble performed twice at the Fès Festival in Morocco—at a free concert for the Festival in the City program, and on the main stage closing night.

FÈS FESTIVAL OF SACRED MUSIC, MOROCCO

The Fès Festival was founded ten years ago in the 1000-year-old imperial city of Fès in Morocco by Mohamed Kabbaj and Sufi scholar Dr. Faouzi Skali, in response to the Persian Gulf War and to growing religious friction around the world. The festival has been committed from its inception to fostering interfaith understanding through the world's many varieties of music. The Spirit of Fès Festival tour was developed in order to transport the message of peace beyond Morocco, and extend the dialogue begun in Fès about art, culture, and spirituality as a human response to pressing global issues.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Spirit of Fès Festival** on **Saturday, March 20** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$22.00, \$30.00** and **\$42.00**. 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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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' presentation of the Spirit of Fès Festival is sponsored by Hear Music.

Sponsorship for the Spirit of Fès Festival's 2004 U.S. National Tour is provided by Morocco's National Tourist Board (ONMT). Additional support is provided by Royal Air Maroc Airlines and the Embassy of Morocco to the United States.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, March 20 at 3:00 p.m.
COLLOQUIUM

125 Morrison Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

Artists and scholars participate in "**The Spirit of Fès: a Vision of Peace,**" a roundtable discussion moderated by UC Davis ethnomusicologist **Sandra Graham**. Participants will discuss the history of Fès Festival in Morocco, and the event's impact on peace building and global dialogue through music. *The event is free and open to the public.*

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Saturday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m.
FILM

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

Sawt-e-Sarmad: The Sound That Intoxicates Man. A short film shot by **Terrance Grace** at the 2003 Fès Festival in Morocco will be shown as Zellerbach Hall opens and Spirit of Fès Festival patrons are settling into their seats.

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Saturday, March 20 at 8:00 p.m.

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

World Stage
Spirit of Fès Festival

Program: The Spirit of Fès Festival, conceived in honor of the 10th anniversary of the Fès Festival of Sacred Music in Morocco, launches its first American tour and comes to Berkeley for one night only. Festival participants include Algerian vocalist Francoise Atlan; dance, percussion and vocal ensemble Hadra des Femmes de Taroudant from Morocco; and North Carolina's seven-member gospel group the Anointed Jackson Sisters, among others.

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

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