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**PERU'S TANIA LIBERTAD, A SINGER *SIN BANDERAS* (WITHOUT BORDERS),
PERFORMS HER PASSIONATE AFRO-PERUVIAN MUSIC
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 8:00 P.M.**

BERKELEY, October 12, 2005 – With a voice that ranges effortlessly from velvety and angelic to searing and intense, Peruvian native singer **Tania Libertad** will bring her vibrant, expressive brand of Afro-Peruvian music to Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall on **Thursday, November 17 at 8:00 p.m.** as part of Cal Performances' *Celebración de las Culturas de Iberoamérica*, an annual series of events aimed at exploring the multitude of art forms and cultures of the Americas, Spain and Portugal. "She commands the stage with a regal demeanor, a gloriously gifted voice and a soaring spirit" (*Los Angeles Times*). One of the most popular singers in Latin America, Libertad celebrates the African roots of music on Peru's northern coast—an area known as *costa negra* because of the many descendants of African slaves who settled there—where she was born. Her last two albums, 2003's *Costa Negra* and 2004's *Negro Color*, both released in the United States, have focused on this music.

Performing with Libertad will be her collaborator and music director, the Cuban pianist **Sonia Cornuchet**, and Libertad's longtime guitarist and fellow Peruvian **Felix Casaverde**. "We're searching for the point that links Cuban and Peruvian music," Libertad has explained of her musical cohorts. Sharing the stage will be bass player **Jose de Jesus Mendoza**, accordion and guitar player **Gabriela Garcia**, and percussionists **Juan Carlos Vasquez** and **Raul Oviedo**. Most of these musicians appeared on *Costa Negra* and *Negro Color*. The pieces Libertad and her band will perform at Cal Performances will be announced from the stage and will span her 35 albums from the last three decades, with special emphasis on Libertad's most recent recordings.

TANIA LIBERTAD

Born to a humble family in Zaña, Peru, **Tania Libertad** first sang in public at the age of five. She moved to Lima during her teens, and then to Mexico City in the early 1980s, to pursue

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a musical career. In three decades as a performer, the diminutive, glamorous Libertad has made a name for herself in Latin America and beyond, singing music ranging from Latin classics, *boleros* and protest songs to her most recent recordings and concerts that revisit the music of her native *costa negra*. What has tied all of these forms together is the still-youthful Libertad's exceptional voice, described as "beguiling" (*Billboard*), "remarkably clear, powerful and passionate" (*The Guardian*, London), and "soulful and buoyant" (*Global Rhythm*). "Tania's voice is a phenomenon, so pure, piercing and sustained at moments that it sounds otherworldly" adds the *Los Angeles Times*.

The Afro-Peruvian music Libertad performs is rhythmically delicate, naturally sensuous, and always stunning. "I was nurtured in the coastal area, so my contact with Afro-Peruvian music started right at the beginning of my life," she recalls. Having grown up with this music, Libertad is acutely aware of how Afro-Peruvian music differs from its counterparts in other Latin American countries. "There are only about 15,000 Afro-Peruvian families in the country, but their cultural influence is very strong," she says. "Not only the music of these coastal people is special; many of their customs are also distinct."

No matter where she goes, Libertad's live performances are always marked by dramatic theater and appreciative, lively audiences. "Playing to a wildly enthusiastic Spanish-speaking crowd at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Libertad showed what we've been missing," wrote *The Guardian* (London) in 2004. She has performed with musicians as diverse as Cesaria Evora, Cesar Camargo Mariano, Miguel Bose, Joan Manuel Serrat, Ruben Blades, Soledad Bravo, Fito Paez, Mercedes Sosa, Guy N'Sangue, Soda Mama Fall, Ousmane Toure, and Placido Domingo.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Tania Libertad on Thursday, November 17 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$20.00, \$26.00, and \$32.00**. 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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Cal Performances' 2005/2006 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday, November 17 at 8:00 p.m.

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

World Stage

Tania Libertad, vocalist

Sonia Cornuchet, music director and piano

Felix Casaverde, guitar

Jose de Jesus Mendoza, bass

Gabriela Garcia, accordion and guitar

Juan Carlos Vasquez, percussion

Raul Oviedo, percussion

Program: Tania Libertad brings her distinct Afro-Peruvian music to Zellerbach Hall for one night only, with music ranging from Latin classics, *boleros* and protest songs to her most recent recordings.

Tickets: \$20.00, \$26.00, and \$32.00, 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.

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