

UCSD presents "California Generations," a cultural celebration by native, immigrant and ethnic performers, November 10 in Mandeville Auditorium

October 30, 1992

Contact: Ruth Baily, University Events Office, 534-4090 or Alixandra Williams, 534-3120

UCSD PRESENTS "CALIFORNIA GENERATIONS," A CULTURAL CELEBRATION BY NATIVE, IMMIGRANT AND ETHNIC PERFORMERS

Native Californian, Mexican-American, East and West Asian, African Diaspora, Anglo-American and Pacific Islander traditions will be celebrated in performance by regional master artists, young and old, in a single event at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, in the Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Tickets are \$12/\$14 general admission and \$9/\$11 student, and may be purchased at the UCSD Price Center Box Office and from TicketMaster outlets.

Featured are Native Californians Julian Lang and Jimmie James from the Karuk and Yurok tribes of the Klamath River Basin; Afghani dutar master Aziz Herawi, accompanied by his son, Omar; punta music by Chatuye from the Caribbean coastal drumming traditions of Belize's Garifuna people and ancient Hawaiian hula and chant by Sissy Kaio and family.

Also featured are Hmong ritual dance master Ge Xiong and his students; the cowboy poetry of Jesse Smith; the virtuoso Veracruz Jarocho ensemble Los Pregoneros del Puerto and traditional music and dance of Tibet by Chaksam-Pa, a trio of recently arrived Tibetan immigrants.

Lang, a young member of the Karuk tribe, raised in Somes Bar along the Klamath River, and in Eureka along the shores of Humboldt Bay, will serve as Master of Ceremonies. A speaker of the Karuk language, a graphic artist and traditional singer and dancer, Lang is a participant and scholar of Karuk cultural life.

James, of the Yurok tribe, was born 76 years ago at Blue Creek on the Klamath. He is a speaker and teacher of the Yurok language, a ceremonial leader and a salmon fisherman.

A ceremonial singer, James says the singer strives to "open the heart through prayer. You open the heart and mind, let it go, let the spirit come, let something good come," he says.

The Kaio family will present the most traditional of the "hula kahiko." The art of hula is a means of preserving Hawaiian history. Kaio has taught hula tradition in Carson for 13 years. Performing with Kaio will be her daughters Annette (17) and Kawena (14), and her sons Lincoln Jr. (16) and Pele (5).

Afghani dutar master Herawi, who now lives in Concord, CA, is one of the leading Afghan musicians living in the United States. He comes from a distinguished family of Islamic theologians in Herat, Western Afghanistan. He performs on the 14-stringed Herati dutar, a long-necked lute, and the rubab, a short-necked lute that is the national instrument of Afghanistan. He will be accompanied by his son Omar, on the zirbaghali, a goblet-shaped, single-headed Afghani drum.

Hmong master Ge Xiong will perform with two of his students. His instrument is the qeej, bamboo pipes that are swung low on the performer's right side. The player dances to his music and the movements, which may be quick or slow, must not interrupt the music in any way. Ge Xiong was recruited by a group of Hmong elders living in Fresno to teach the acrobatic and traditional portions of the ritual dance to young people who have grown up in the United States.

Cowboy poet Smith was born and raised east of Porterville, CA, on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada, where he has lived ever since. He's a fifth generation Californian and has worked as a cowboy since he was 15.

Los Pregoneros del Puerto is a group of professional musicians formed in the port city of Veracruz around 1964. Jose Gutierrez, Valente Reyes and Gonzalo Mata are native veracruzanos who have known each other for more than a quarter of a century. They separated, each one moving to the United States, and reunited in 1982. They are counted among the best of the jarocho musicians today.

Tashi Dhondup, Tsering Wangmo and Sonam Tashi comprise the Tibetan trio, Chaksam-Pa. They are the founding members and artistic core of the ensemble, whose name means "bridge builder." The San Francisco-based organization was founded in 1989 to preserve the artistic traditions of Tibet. They are among the approximately 120,000 Tibetans living in exile since fleeing their homeland after Chinese troops annexed Tibet and declared historical sovereignty over the region more than three decades ago.

Chatuye, the Garifuna ensemble, is led by Sidney Mejia of Belize. The group, which drums, sings and dances, is counted among the more popular Garifuna ensembles in Los Angeles. The dance rhythms of traditional Garifuna music, and the new form emerging from it, called "punta rock," are catching the ear of "world" music fans around the globe. The foundations of the music are provided by three large cylindrical drums that accompany the singers. The drums are carved of cedar or mahogany logs and turned with wooden pegs tied to the drum head. The higher-pitched "lanigi," or heart drum, is the lead drum; the "lafuna" is the second, or shadow drum, and the third is called "tercera," the bass drum. Adding to the percussion sound are the maracas, claves and gourds.

This event is brought to San Diego by the UCSD University Events Office. For information call 534-4090.

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