

Latin America's music ambassadors Inti-illimani to perform Nov. 7 in Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD

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Media Contact: Ruth Baily at University Events, (619) 534-0497, rbailygucsd.edu or

Jan Jennings, (619) 822-1684, 'n'enni

LATIN AMERICA'S MUSIC AMBASSADORS INTI-ILLIMANI TO PERFORM NOV. 7 IN MANDEVILLE AUDITORIUM AT UCSD

The Latin American ensemble Inti-Illimani whose music is described by the Los Angeles Times "as a feast for both the brain and the soul" will perform at 8 p.m. Nov. 7 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

The eight musicians play more than 30 instruments, including ancient Andean wooden flutes and pipes and an array of guitars, saxophones, clarinets, mandolins and percussion. Their music stretches from the ancient pre-Columbian Mayan culture of the Andes to modern jazz and contemporary European chamber music.

Dirty Linen Magazine says Inti-Illimani spins "a mesmerizing blend of South American, European and other geographically diverse influences, walking a line between political folk music, endemic instrumental traditions, and classical instrumentation and arrangements."

Ensemble musicians, mostly from Chile, are Horacio Salinas, Jorge Coulon, Marcelo Coulon, Horacio Duran, Pedro Villagra and Efen Manuel Viera, with special guests Daniel Cantillana and Jorge Ball. The musicians' deftness with instruments is complemented by vocals filled with "pathos, pain, longing, melancholy, joy, defiance, love and humor," according to the (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot.

Inti-Illimani was formed three decades ago in Santiago, Chile. The ensemble's name means sun (Inti) and a mountain near La Paz, Bolivia (Illimani) in Aymara, a dialect of Chile's indigenous people. The name is pronounced Inte-E-gee-mane.

The musicians, initially students in the 1960s studying to become engineers at Santiago Technical University, followed instead their love for music and explored the indigenous cultures of Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Argentina, discovering Andean music and their Latin American roots.

In 1973, the members found themselves without a country when Chilean President Salvador Allende was deposed while they were on tour. Italy became the group's home until 1988, when at last it was able to return to a warm welcome in its native land.

Since its founding, Inti-Illimani has incorporated its original Latin American roots music with the music it has experienced and performed during its Italian hiatus and in travels throughout the world.

"For 30 years they've been playing music that's made them a symbol of the struggle for human rights and peace in Latin America," writes the (Toronto) Globe and Mail.

Inti-Illimani appeared on Amnesty International stages with Bruce Springsteen, Mercedes Sosa, Sting, Wynton Marsalis and Peter Gabriel. Highlights of its 30th anniversary celebration include performances in Europe with John Williams, the North American premiere of their symphony program in Chicago, tours of Italy and Japan, and a 30-day tour of North America that concluded with an anniversary concert at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall with the Orquesta Sinfonica Nazionale de Puerto Rico.

The group has recorded 29 albums and has won numerous awards, including the Human Rights Award from UC-Berkeley in 1997, the 1991 Best National Group of the Year Award in Chile, and the 1983 Lupa del Campidolio from Rome, Italy, awarded to foreign residents who have influenced the culture of the city.

"Inti-Illimani is like a talisman," writes the Chicago Tribune. "The longer it's around, the more polished it becomes, the more it shines and reflects, and the more memories it collects."

Tickets for Inti-Illimani are \$17 general admission, \$15 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, and \$12 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-8497, and at Ticketmaster outlets at 220-8497. The performance is sponsored by the University Events Office. For information on the entire season of events sponsored by the University Events Office, visit the website, <http://ueo.ucsd.edu>, or call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

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