

African/folk entertainers, 'Echoes of Africa,' to perform Nov. 15 in Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD

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AFRICAN/FOLK ENTERTAINERS, 'ECHOES OF AFRICA,' iiiPERFORM NOV. .1.5_EN_MANDEVILLE AUDITORIUM AT UCSD

"Echoes of Africa," performances featuring the African/folk origins of American popular music and dance, will be presented at 8 p.m. Nov. 15 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Songs, games, dances, oratory, instrumental solos, and stories will be included in a program which traces its origins to stylings from Africa, the Georgia Sea Islands, and the Piedmont region of Virginia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Florida.

Performers are Cephas & Wiggins, Frankie and Doug Quimby, LaVaughn Robinson, and Djimo Kouyate.

John Cephas and Phil Wiggins perform Piedmont blues, the oldest form of blues with links to the black string bands that began in Colonial America. Slave performers in early string bands combined the wood and gourd African banjo with the European violin to create ensemble forms that are at the root of several types of popular American music. Cephas plays the Piedmont style of guitar and is the primary singer in the duo. Wiggins is a world-class player on the harmonica.

Cephas and Wiggins have twice won the W.C. Handy Award of the Memphis-based Blues Foundation for the year's best traditional blues recording. They also have won a National Heritage Award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Frankie and Doug Quimby perform songs, games, dances, and stories handed down over two centuries in the island communities off the coast of Georgia. Slaves worked plantations there, and their isolated conditions and numbers contributed to the existence and perpetuation of elements of their African cultural heritage.

The Quimbys have performed with the Georgia Sea Island Singers. They were among a number of entertainers from the United States who performed during festivities at the 1994 Winter Olympics in Norway, and they have guest starred on Nickelodeon TV.

LaVaughn Robinson began tap dancing at the age of seven on the linoleum floors of his home in South Philadelphia, graduated to dancing for change in the downtown streets, and later took to the stage in the company of Cab Calloway, Tommy Dorsey, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and Charlie Parker. Throughout his career he has maintained an appreciation of the street sound from which tap emerged.

Robinson developed the tap dance program at Philadelphia's College of the Performing Arts, and is a recipient of a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Born in Senegal, West Africa, performance host Djimo Kouyate is a griot, or oral historian. (His family traces its origins to a griot who served in the court of a 13th Century emperor of Mali. The griot is charged with transmitting oral histories through vocals, accompanied by the kora, or harp.) Djimo is a master performer on the kora, and maintains his family tradition.

Djimo helped establish the Ballet National de Senegal where he served for more than 20 years. He has traveled throughout the world performing in Europe, North and South America, the Middle East, the Far East, and Australia. He has recorded four albums

"Echoes of Africa" is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office. Tickets for the Nov. 15 performance are general admission, \$15; UCSD faculty, staff, and seniors, \$13, and students, \$11. Tickets may be purchased through Ticketmaster outlets, at the Box Office at the Price Center on campus, at the Mandeville Box Office on the evening of the event, or by calling 534-8497. For further information, call the University Events Office at 534-4090.

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