

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Announces 2018 Season Lineup

100 Free Programs from Sunday, May 6 – Sunday, October 28, 2018

Opening Concert Sunday, May 6

Mariachi Flor de Toloache + Diana Gameros

Season Highlights include:

Innov Gnawa + Book of J

Garba in the Gardens

2nd Annual Yerba Buena Gardens ChoreoFest

Gamelan Sekar Jaya

Betsayda Machado y La Parranda El Clavo + VNote Ensemble

Circus Bella

Isle of Klezbos + Fanfare Zambaleta

SF Uke Jam Summer Uke-Splasion!

San Francisco Mime Troupe

Yosvany Terry Sextet

San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band

AfroSolo in the Gardens

Vân Anh Võ & The VA'V

Manila Disco Fever

Marcus Shelby Orchestra's *Blackball: The Negro League and the Blues*

(San Francisco, CA – March 14, 2018) – The **2018 Yerba Buena Gardens Festival** today announced the programming for its 18th Season at Yerba Buena Gardens in downtown San Francisco. The Festival begins on Sunday, May 6 with the first all-female mariachi ensemble **Mariachi Flor de Toloache** and the Bay Area's **Diana Gameros** opening the concert to kick off this year's over 100 admission-free events.

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival presents free music, theater, circus, dance, poetry, and children's programs with artists from the Bay Area and around the world. Yerba Buena Gardens is a world-renowned cultural destination for Bay Area residents, families, workers, and tourists and is located between Mission Street and Howard Street and 3rd and 4th Street in downtown San Francisco. For more information visit, www.ybgfestival.org or call 415-543-1718.

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Executive/Artistic Director Linda Lucero says, "Get inspired! Treat yourself and treat your family, friends, and co-workers to the most diverse performing arts experience in the Bay Area. Yerba Buena Gardens Festival is Free, Outdoors, and Fresh!"

The Yerba Buena Gardens Festival opens on Sunday, May 6 at 1:00pm with the first all-female mariachi ensemble, **Mariachi Flor de Toloache**, as they have blazed a brilliant pioneering path for women in a traditionally male world of Mexican music. Co-led by violinist and founder Mireya I. Ramos and Shae Fiol on the lute-like vihuela, the New York City-based band earned a 2017 "Best Ranchera Album" Latin Grammy for their album *Las Caras Lindas*. Flor de Toloache made inroads in indie rock circles supporting The Black Keys' Dan Auerbach on his stylistically expansive side project, *The Arcs*. Opening the concert is the enthralling Mexican-born Bay Area-based vocalist, composer, and guitarist **Diana Gameros**.

The Festival includes the very popular **Let's Go Salsa@Jessie!** dance series, the family-friendly **Children's Garden Series**, **Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake**, and **Thursday Lunchtime Concerts**. Each and every week and weekend, the Festival presents a curated lineup of musicians, dancers, poets, and artists from around the world including the Moroccan trance music of **Innov Gnawa** with **Book of J** on May 12, northwestern Indian dance with **Garba in the Gardens** on May 19, the **2nd Annual Yerba Buena Gardens ChoreoFest** on June 2 and 3, the most celebrated gamelan ensemble outside of Bali, **Gamelan Sekar Jaya**, on June 9, powerhouse Afro-Venezuelan vocalist **Betsayda Machado y La Parranda El Clavo** with **VNote Ensemble** on June 16, three performances from Festival favorites **Circus Bella** on June 22 and 23, the all-women klezmer group direct from New York City **Isle of Klezbos** with San Francisco's **Fanfare Zambaleta** on July 7, Ukulenny and Cynthia Lin's **SF Uke Jam Summer Uke-Splasion!** on July 14, Cuban saxophonist **Yosvany Terry Sextet** on July 28, the 40th Anniversary performance of the **San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band** on July 29, one of Vietnam's most

celebrated traditional artists **Vân Anh Võ & The VA'V** on August 25, **Manila Disco Fever** on September 1, and the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival commissioned piece from **Marcus Shelby Orchestra - *Blackball: The Negro League and the Blues*** on September 8. The Festival closes with the **18th Annual Halloween Hoopla** on Sunday, October 28.

Festival Programs & Series

Let's Go Salsa@Jessie!, the open-air salsa dance party in Jessie Square (near the Contemporary Jewish Museum), takes place on the third Thursday of each month from May to September from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. Performers are the 'New Mambo Retro Salsa' group **Cabanijazz Project** on May 17, the nine-piece combo **Bululú** led by Venezuelan-born percussion master and vocalist Lali Mejia on June 21, the Bay Area's inventive Cuban band **Pellejo Seco** on July 19, the U.S. State Department-sponsored Latin Jazz Ambassadors and the Mission's own **Annette A. Aguilar & StringBeans** on August 16, and Los Mocosos vocalist and master salsero **Manny Martinez y la Rebeldia** on September 20.

Children's Garden Series features interactive performances specially designed for kids and families every Friday from June to August in the Yerba Buena Children's Garden at Fourth and Howard Streets. The series presents performances by kid favorites: the 2018 Grammy-nominated **Alphabet Rockers**, **Non Stop Bhangra**, **Māhealani Uchiyama**, **Parangal Dance Company**, **Circus Bella**, **Unique Derique**, **Caterpillar Puppets**, **Chelle! & Friends**, **Pi Clowns**, **Red Panda Acrobats**, **Venezuelan Music Project**, **Crosspulse**, and **Ka-Hon**. The series ends with the wildly popular **18th Annual Halloween Hoopla** on Sunday, October 28.

Thursday Lunchtime Concert Series takes place most Thursdays from 12:30pm to 1:30pm and is a favorite destination of downtown workers, shoppers, tourists, and students. This year features the very best of local and international musicians including **New World String Project** on May 10, **Community Music Center Older Adult Choirs** on May 17, **Dogon Lights** on May 24, **Kitty Pak** on May 31, **Latin Jazz Youth Ensemble of San Francisco** on June 7, the Swedish Consulate's **Jenny Lind Concert** on June 21, **Dalia & the Big Violin** on June 28, **Manring Kassir Burr** on July 5, **Maikaze Daiko** on July 12, **Solate** on July 19, **Sol Development with Mino Yanci** on August 2, **LINES Dance Center** on August 9, **Highest Ani** on August 16, **Faun Fables** on August 23, **La Patronal** on August 30, **John Brothers Piano Company** on September 6, **Daniel Riera: Future Flutist with Electric Ensemble** on October 4, and **Rice Kings** on October 11.

The Yerba Buena Gardens Festival proudly hosts annual cultural celebrations: the **21st Native Contemporary Arts Festival** on June 17, the **18th Annual AfroSolo in the Gardens** featuring a **Tribute to Duke Ellington featuring Denise Perrier and Nina Causley with David Hardiman's San Francisco All-Star Big Band** on August 4, the **25th Annual Pistahan** on August 11 and 12, and **Brazil in the Gardens: Pragandaia with special guest Margareth Menezes** on August 18.

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival presents **Poetic Tuesdays** on the second Tuesday of each month. Guest curated by Litquake, Poetic Tuesdays run from 12:30pm-1:30pm and feature an array of poets and music.

The Festival also presents three performances of a new one-ring circus from **Circus Bella** on June 22 and 23. Conceived and directed by Abigail Munn and Joel Baker for Circus Bella, the show includes static trapeze, rope walking, juggling, contortion, unicycle, original clowning, acrobatics, and more. Circus Bella is partnering with Prescott Circus Theatre, a youth development and performing arts program based in West Oakland as a pre-show and opening act. Circus Bella performed at the 2017 Smithsonian Folklife Festival's celebration of Circus Arts.

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Commissions

Continuing a longstanding commitment to commissioning new works, the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival has commissioned the following projects:

YBG ChoreoFest is a site-specific dance festival on June 2–3 curated by RAWdance's Wendy Rein and Ryan T. Smith. The second annual YBG ChoreoFest features nine local companies and leads audiences on an exciting journey throughout the lawns and architecture of Yerba Buena Gardens.

The Festival's resident composer and bassist, bandleader, and award-winning composer Marcus Shelby leads his Orchestra on September 8 to perform the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival commission ***Blackball: The Negro League and the Blues***. Shelby delves into the glorious, uplifting, and heartbreaking story of African-Americans and the national pastime during the Jim Crow era with "Blackball: The Negro League and the Blues." An 80-minute composition written for the Marcus Shelby Orchestra, vocalists, and narrator, ***Blackball*** is inspired by the character,

love, courage, brilliance, failure, and humor of Negro League players who made far-reaching but often overlooked contributions to American life during the years from Reconstruction through the 1950s.

2018 Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Programming

Visit www.ybgfestival.org or call (415) 543-1718 for more detailed information.

All events are free.

The Yerba Buena Gardens Festival IS NOT part of YBCA.

All programs take place outdoors in Yerba Buena Gardens, off Mission Street between 3rd and 4th Streets, San Francisco.

MAY

Mariachi Flor de Toloache + Diana Gameros, Sunday, May 6, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake, Tuesday, May 8, 12:30pm-1:30pm

New World String Project, Thursday, May 10, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Innov Gnawa + Book of J, Saturday, May 12, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Community Music Center Older Adult Choirs, Thursday, May 17, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Let's Go Salsa@Jessie! Cabanijazz Project, Thursday, May 17, 6:00pm-7:30pm

Garba in the Gardens, Saturday, May 19, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Dogon Lights, Thursday, May 24, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Tom Rigney & Flambeau, Saturday, May 26, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Kitty Pak, Thursday, May 31, 12:30pm-1:30pm

JUNE

2nd Annual Yerba Buena Gardens ChoreoFest, Saturday, June 2 & Sunday, June 3, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Latin Jazz Youth Ensemble of San Francisco, Thursday, June 7, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Gamelan Sekar Jaya, Saturday, June 9, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake, Tuesday, June 12, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Betsayda Machado y La Parranda El Clavo + VNote Ensemble, Saturday, June 16, 1:00pm-3:00pm

21st Native Contemporary Arts Festival, Sunday, June 17, 12:00pm-3:00pm

Jenny Lind Concert, Thursday, June 21, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Let's Go Salsa@Jessie! Bululú, Thursday, June 21, 6:00pm-7:30pm

Circus Bella, Friday, June 22, 12:00pm-1:00pm; Saturday, June 23, 12:00pm-1:00pm & 2:15pm-3:15pm

Dalia & the Big Violin, Thursday, June 28, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Music of the Banned, Saturday, June 30, 1:00pm-3:30pm

JULY

Manning Kassin Burr, Thursday, July 5, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Isle of Klezbos + Fanfare Zambaleta, Saturday, July 7, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake, Tuesday, July 10, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Maikaze Daiko, Thursday, July 12, 12:30pm-1:30pm

SF Uke Jam Summer Uke-Splosion!, Saturday, July 14, 1:00pm-3:00pm

San Francisco Mime Troupe, Sunday, July 15, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Solate, Thursday, July 19, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Let's Go Salsa@Jessie! Pellejo Seco, Thursday, July 19, 6:00pm-7:30pm

Yosvany Terry Sextet, Saturday, July 28, 1:00pm-2:30pm

San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, Sunday, July 29, 1:00pm-2:30pm

AUGUST

Sol Development w/ Mino Yanci, Thursday, August 2, 12:30pm-1:30pm

AfroSolo in the Gardens, Saturday, August 4, 1:00pm-2:30pm

LINES Dance Center, Thursday, August 9, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Pistahan, Saturday, August 11 & Sunday, August 12, 11:00am-5:00pm

Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake, Tuesday, August 14, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Highest Ani, Thursday, August 16, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Let's Go Salsa@Jessie! Annette A. Aguilar & StringBeans, Thursday, August 16, 6:00pm-7:30pm

Brazil in the Gardens, Saturday, August 18, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Faun Fables, Thursday, August 23, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Vân Ánh Võ & The VA'V, Saturday, August 25, 1:00pm-2:30pm

La Patronal, Thursday, August 30, 12:30pm-1:30pm

SEPTEMBER

Manila Disco Fever, Saturday, September 1, 1:00pm-2:30pm

John Brothers Piano Company, Thursday, September 6, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Marcus Shelby Orchestra's *Blackball: The Negro League and the Blues*, Saturday, September 8, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake, Tuesday, September 11, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Let's Go Salsa@Jessie! Manny Martinez y la Rebeldia, Thursday, September 20, 6:00pm-7:30pm

OCTOBER

Daniel Riera: Future Flutist with Electric Ensemble, Thursday, October 4, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Rice Kings, Thursday, October 11, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Poetic Tuesdays with Litquake, Tuesday, October 16, 12:30pm-1:30pm

CHILDREN'S GARDEN SERIES

Yerba Buena Children's Garden is located at Howard & Fourth Streets. Two performances each day: 11:00am-11:30am and 12:15pm-12:45pm, except Circus Bella and Halloween Hoopla.

Non Stop Bhangra, Friday, June 1

Māhealani Uchiyama, Friday, June 8

Parangal Dance Company, Friday, June 15

Circus Bella, Friday, June 22, 12:00pm-1:00pm; Saturday, June 23, 12:00pm-1:00pm & 2:15pm-3:15pm, Yerba Buena Gardens Esplanade

Unique Derique, Friday, June 29

Caterpillar Puppets, Friday, July 6

Chelle! & Friends, Friday, July 13

Pi Clowns, Friday, July 20

Alphabet Rockers, Friday, July 27

Red Panda Acrobats, Friday, August 3

Venezuelan Music Project, Friday, August 17

Crosspulse, Friday, August 24

Ka-Hon, Friday, August 31

18th Annual Halloween Hoopla, Sunday, October 28, Noon-2pm

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival is the proud recipient of the Yerba Buena Community Benefit District's **2018 Award for Community Placemaking**, in recognition of their efforts to attract visitors to the neighborhood to enjoy outstanding arts programming.

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival is made possible through the generosity of the City and County of San Francisco, National Endowment for the Arts, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Yerba Buena Community Benefit District, San Francisco Arts Commission, MAP Fund, Bernard Osher Foundation, Fleishhacker Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation, Target, Metreon, The Craft Foundation, Association of Performing Arts Professionals, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Western Arts Alliance, Southern Exposure, and Generous Individuals who support admission-free performing arts in public spaces.

Program Partners: AfroSolo, American Indian Contemporary Arts, California Brazil Camp, Children's Creativity Museum, Community Music Center, Filipino-American Arts Exposition, Litquake, MoAD, SFJAZZ, Consulate General of Japan, Consulate General of Sweden, Red Poppy Art House, Yerba Buena Community Benefit District, MELA Arts Connect.

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Yerba Buena Arts & Events, producer of the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, is located at 760 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Phone (415) 543-1718; website: ybgfestival.org.

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