

For Immediate Release
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Rotunda Dance Series: Centennial Celebration of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition

Presented by Dancers' Group and World Arts West,
in partnership with San Francisco Grants for the Arts and
San Francisco City Hall

Free

Friday, February 20, 2015
12 Noon
San Francisco City Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — Jan 5, 2015 — Now entering its fifth season of free monthly performances, the Rotunda Dance Series begins its 2015 season with a special performance commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. The Exposition was “the first major world's fair on the West Coast of the United States,” said San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival Executive Director Julie Mushet, noting that roughly 18 million people attended the fair, which featured over 80,000 exhibits with 42 foreign countries involved. “The 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition left a lasting imprint on the San Francisco Bay Area, especially in regards to world dance and music.” It is only fitting that the highly visible Rotunda Dance Series use this historic anniversary to celebrate the past, present and future of dance in the Bay Area.

On Friday, February 20, the grand Rotunda will be filled with performances by world-renowned Balinese ensemble, Gamelan Sekar Jaya; innovative modern dance with the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company; and traditional Swedish dancing.

This performance launches the 2015 Rotunda Dance Series, which will continue its centennial celebration for the Exposition throughout the year. The 2015 dance series will include performances by Hālau o Keikiali'i, Shinichi Iova-Koga, Kaiwen You Chinese Dance, Mary Sano and Her Duncan Dancers, and many other Bay Area artists sustaining dance and music from around the world.

The high-profile Rotunda Dance Series brings many of the Bay Area's most celebrated dance companies to San Francisco City Hall's rotunda space for free monthly noon-time performances. The series is presented by Dancers' Group and World Arts West in partnership San Francisco's Grants for the Arts and San Francisco City Hall.

About Gamelan Sekar Jaya (gsj.org) Gamelan Sekar Jaya's mission is to foster artistic exchange between Bali and the United States through residencies, workshops, performances and the creation of innovative new works of music and dance; and to share the excitement of this exchange with diverse audiences locally, nationally, and abroad. An internationally acclaimed group of musicians and dancers, Gamelan Sekar Jaya has made the performing arts of Bali its specialty. Founded in 1979, the sixty-member ensemble has presented hundreds of concerts throughout the United States as well as in Canada, Mexico and Bali. Their success arose not only from devotion to traditional repertoire but also from innovative work. Gamelan Sekar Jaya is regarded as "the finest Balinese gamelan outside

of Indonesia" (*Tempo* magazine) and is the only non-Balinese group to receive a *Dharma Kusuma*, Bali's highest award for artistic achievement.

About Margaret Jenkins Dance Company (mjdc.org) Founded in 1973, the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company has been a part of the cultural fabric of San Francisco for over three decades—dedicated to the making and touring of new work, international exchange, and programs that support process, choreographic mentorship and performance opportunities. At the heart of the organization's mission is Ms. Jenkins' belief that it is incumbent on artists to be in conversation through their work—to break the isolation and expand who sees and responds to the arts.

About World Arts West (worldartswest.org)

For over three decades, World Arts West has supported and presented world dance artists throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. The main presenting program of the organization is the nationally acclaimed *San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival*, which presents over 100 distinct dance forms and thousands of local dancers who are sustaining and innovating within those forms. The organization works year round to advance cultural literacy and build bridges of cultural understanding.

About Dancers' Group (dancersgroup.org)

Dancers' Group promotes the visibility and viability of dance. Founded in 1982, we serve San Francisco Bay Area artists, the dance community and audiences through programs and services that are as collaborative and innovative as the creative process. As the primary dance service organization for the second largest dance community in the country, Dancers' Group's many programs help artists produce work, build audiences, and connect with their peers and the community.

The 2015 Rotunda Dance Series continues:

Friday, March 20

Friday, April 3

Friday, May 1

Friday, June 19

Friday, August 7

Friday, September 4

Friday, October 2

Friday November 6

Friday December 4

Visit dancersgroup.org/rotunda for more information

Calendar Editors please note:

Who: Rotunda Dance Series: Centennial Celebration of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition with Gamelan Sekar Jaya, Margaret Jenkins Dance Company, and traditional Swedish dancing

What: Free monthly dance performance, presented by Dancers' Group and World Arts West, in partnership with San Francisco Grants for the Arts and San Francisco City Hall.

Cost: Free

Where: City Hall, San Francisco

When: Friday, February 20, 2015, Noon

Info: Michelle Lynch Reynolds, (415) 920-9181, michelle@dancersgroup.org, dancersgroup.org/rotunda

Images available for download:

http://dancersgroup.org/?attachment_id=14594

Photo courtesy of the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company

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Photo of Gamelan Sekar Jaya by RJ Muna

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