

For Immediate Release
Contact: Michelle Lynch Reynolds
(415) 920-9181
michelle@dancersgroup.org

Rotunda Dance Series: Chinyakare Ensemble
Presented by Dancers' Group and World Arts West,
in partnership with Grants for the Arts and
San Francisco City Hall

Free

Friday, February 12, 2016
12 Noon
San Francisco City Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—December 22, 2015—Entering its sixth season of free monthly dance performances in San Francisco City Hall's extraordinary rotunda, Dancers' Group and World Arts West have once again partnered to bring audiences lunchtime glimpses into movement and musical traditions from around the world.

On February 12, 2016, the Rotunda Dance Series opens with a performance by the **Chinyakare Ensemble**, in a suite of traditional dances from the southern African nation of Zimbabwe. The performance will feature polyrhythmic music and dances whose themes range from honoring the earth to celebrating deliverance from colonization.

The 2016 Series will highlight many cultural traditions not yet presented in the series, including February's performance of Zimbabwean dance, historic European and American social dances, all-female hip hop, and clogging, among others.

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 with Grants for the Arts and San Francisco City Hall.

About Chinyakare Ensemble (chinyakare.com)

The Chinyakare Ensemble, formed in 2001 by Julia Tsitsi Chigamba, is a family of musicians, dancers and teachers recognized for its authentic presentation of Zimbabwean music and dance. Chinyakare presents electrifying performances of the traditional dance, music, and culture of Zimbabwe and Southern Africa. The music (played on *mbira*, *ngoma*, *marimbas*, and *chipendani*), songs, and dance weave colorful stories that show scenes from everyday life, while teaching important life lessons, such as goal-setting, perseverance, and thankfulness. Chinyakare provides the audience with a glimpse of the beauty, excitement, and spirit of traditional African dance and song.

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 itself. In response to the needs of its constituents, Dancers' Group has evolved to fulfill a dual function as a service organization and as a presenter of performance opportunities that maximize the visibility of dance in the Bay Area.

Save the Dates for the 2016 Rotunda Dance Series

Friday, March 4

Friday, April 29

Friday, May 13

Friday, June 3

Friday, August 5

Friday, September 2

Friday, October 7

Friday, November 4

Friday, December 9

Calendar Editors please note:

Who: Rotunda Dance Series: Chinyakare Ensemble

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

Cost: Free

Where: City Hall, San Francisco

When: Friday, February 12, 2016, Noon

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

Images available for download:

1. <http://dancersgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/2.-Chinyakare-by-RJ-Muna.jpg>
2. <http://dancersgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/1.-Chinyakare-by-RJ-Muna.jpg>

Photos of Chinyakare Ensemble by RJ Muna

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