

For Immediate Release
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Rotunda Dance Series: Nava Dance Collective
Presented by Dancers' Group and World Arts West,
in partnership with Grants for the Arts and
San Francisco City Hall

Free

Friday, March 24, 2017
12 Noon
San Francisco City Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—February 13, 2017—In their seventh season of free monthly dance performances in San Francisco City Hall's extraordinary rotunda, Dancers' Group and World Arts West continue their partnership to bring audiences lunchtime glimpses into movement and musical traditions from around the world.

This March, Nava Dance Collective presents *Transcendence – Charkh e Falak (Turning of The Cosmos)*, a dance installation in honor of Nowruz (New Day), a celebration of the Spring equinox observed by peoples across the Middle East and Central Asia. This piece honors the ancient Zoroastrian sun deity, *Mithra*, and will feature a traditional Iranian *Haft-Seen* (a ritual altar built in homes during the time of Nowruz), along with an enactment of the rituals performed on Nowruz by *Anahita*, the ancient Persian goddess of water. Special guest artists include Persian percussionist Amir Etemadzadeh and dance artist Aliah Najmabadi.

Next up for the Rotunda Dance Series will be *One Dance*, a fun-filled flash mob led by Rhythm & Motion, celebrating the kick-off of Bay Area Dance Week, on Friday, April 21. The 2017 performance series will continue with presentations by the World Dance and World Music Programs at the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School for the Arts, Monaco Boys Choir, and Madhuri Kishore School of Kuchipudi, among others.

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

About Nava Dance Collective (miriamdance.com)

Nava Dance Collective is an international community of dancers devoted to cross-cultural dialogue and artistic collaboration through traditional, sacred, and ethno-contemporary dance forms. Under the direction of Miriam Peretz, dancers from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds collaborate in the creation of meaningful projects and performances. Immersed in

the unique movement language developed by Peretz, dancers of the Collective fuse contemporary aesthetics, devotional themes and Silk Road dances. Beyond the importance of cultural preservation and technical precision, creating community among dancers is at the heart of the Nava Dance Collective. Director Miriam Peretz has spent the past twenty years studying Middle Eastern and Central Asian dances, music and culture. She is most passionate about creating ritual infused, devotional dance pieces that integrate traditional dance vocabulary with contemporary aesthetics and movement.

About World Arts West (worldartswest.org)

For nearly four 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.

Coming up during the 2017 Rotunda Dance Series

April 21: Kick-Off of Bay Area Dance Week with Rhythm & Motion

May 5: Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts World Music and Dance Programs

June 2: Joe Goode Performance Group

July 14: Monaco Boys Choir

The Series will continue on Fridays this Fall:

September 1

October 6

November 3

December 1

Calendar Editors please note:

Who: Rotunda Dance Series: Nava Dance Collective

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, March 24, 2017, Noon

Info: Natalia Velarde, (415) 920-9181, natalia@dancersgroup.org, dancersgroup.org/rotunda

Images available for download:

<http://dancersgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/NavaDanceCollective.jpg>

Photo by Shulamit Bushinsky

<http://dancersgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2-nava.jpg>

Photo by Robert Bengston

<http://dancersgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/3-nava.jpg>

Photo by Laura Soriano

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