

For Immediate Release
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**Rotunda Dance Series:
Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts World Music and Dance Program**

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

Free

Friday, May 5, 2017
12 Noon
San Francisco City Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—March 31, 2017—In their seventh season presenting 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 May, the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts (SOTA) World Music and Dance Department will present excerpts from their April *Takeover* performance, including Bhangra, Bollywood, West African, and Taiko styles.

The World Music and Dance Department at SOTA, the only such program in the country, teaches high school students in 9th-12th grade a variety of music and dance forms, including Afro-Brazilian, West African, Afro-Cuban, Taiko, Bhangra, Bollywood, Salsa and more. Monina Sen Cervone and Joti Singh direct the program.

The 2017 Rotunda performance series will continue with presentations by Joe Goode Performance Group, 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 Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts (sfsota.org)

SOTA offers a highly creative alternative for students who seek in-depth study of the arts as part of their daily high school experience. Students attend academic classes each morning and in the afternoon, they devote two to three hours to their art discipline, where they are taught and mentored by their Arts Directors and a corps of Artists-in-Residence from the broader arts community. In addition to fulfilling their academic responsibilities, students spend their time in rehearsals, studio time, outside lessons, training, showcases and performances. SOTA is a public high school located in Diamond Heights, with just over 650 students; it is one of the smallest high schools in the district, and also one of the highest-achieving in standardized test scores and college admissions.

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

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: Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts World Music and Dance Departments

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, May 5, 2017, Noon

Info: Natalia Velarde, [\(415\) 920-9181](tel:4159209181), natalia@dancersgroup.org, dancersgroup.org/rotunda

Images available for download:

http://dancersgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/SOTA_photo-by-Vijay-Rakhra.jpg

Photo by Vijay Rakhra

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