

SAN FRANCISCO  
**ETHNIC  
DANCE  
FESTIVAL**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL RETURNS TO THE WAR  
MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE FOR 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN JULY**

**NEW ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP INCLUDES PATRICK MAKUAKĀNE,  
LATANYA D. TIGNER AND MĀHEALANI UCHIYAMA, WHO JOIN  
ARTISTIC DIRECTORS EMERITUS CK LADZEKPO AND CARLOS  
CARVAJAL**

San Francisco, CA, March 15, 2018 –The San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival will return for a second year at the War Memorial Opera House in July to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the largest, longest-running, and most comprehensive world dance and music event of its kind in the US. The Festival's 2017 debut at the Opera House brought sold-out performances with artists and audiences spilling from the theater onto the Opera House steps in a jubilant outpouring of enthusiasm for the Bay Area's world-class array of ethnic dance and music. The Festival's 2018 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary lineup will feature Bay Area-based groups at the San Francisco War Memorial Opera House and City Hall presenting dance and music from Alaska, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Cuba, India, Korea, Liberia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Spain, Tahiti, the continental US, and Zimbabwe. Four groups will make their Festival debuts and the season will feature eight world premieres created specifically for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Festival opens with a free public celebration with performances in San Francisco City Hall's rotunda on Friday, July 6, at Noon. Two different programs will be presented at the Opera House July 14 & 15 and July 21 & 22, and a complete list of dates and artists may be found below. Tickets are priced \$25-\$45 and go on sale beginning April 24 at [sfethnicdancefestival.org](http://sfethnicdancefestival.org).

"We are thrilled to be returning to the Opera House for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. This is a magnificent setting to celebrate the awe-inspiring Bay Area artists who are sustaining the world's cultural traditions, shining as a powerful beacon for the power and beauty of diverse cultural inclusion. We are all honored to be part of this premiere US summer dance Festival featuring local artists with a global perspective," said Festival Executive Director Julie Mushet. "It's deeply gratifying to celebrate four decades of presenting these inspiring artists to ever-growing audiences, from the Festival's modest beginnings in community centers to the grandest stage in San Francisco."

One of the highlights of this year's Festival is the performance by Chuna McIntyre and the Nunamta Yup'ik Eskimo Singers and Dancers, who will present a dance that will be seen for the first time in over 200 years, in regalia that has taken nearly four decades to create.

In addition to 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary performance details, the Festival has announced a trio of new Co-Artistic Directors: Patrick Makuakāne, Latanya d. Tigner, and Māhealani Uchiyama, as Carlos Carvajal and CK Ladzekpo become Artistic Directors Emeritus after 12 seasons as Co-Artistic Directors. Makuakāne is founder, Artistic Director, and Kumu Hula of San Francisco's renowned Nā Lei Hulu i ka Wēkiu Hawaiian dance company; Tigner is a dancer and choreographer at Oakland's venerated Dimensions Dance Theater, directs Dimensions' youth company, and serves on the dance faculty of UC Berkeley; Uchiyama is founder and Artistic Director of the Center for International Dance in Berkeley, Kumu Hula of Hālau Ka Ua Tuahine, and is an award-winning choreographer and composer. New Co-Artistic Director bios may be found here: <http://worldartswest.org/main/artdirectors.asp> .

Much as Festival artists pass their cultural traditions on to the next generation, Carvajal and Ladzekpo are sharing their knowledge as longtime leaders of the Festival artistic team with the new team of highly accomplished Artistic Directors. Each is an extraordinary artist in their own right, and together, they have decades of professional dance experience filled with groundbreaking accomplishment.

### **Opera House Artists for 2018:**

**AERODANCE** † – Indian Folkloric (Gujarat)

**AguaClara Flamenco** – Spanish Flamenco

**Ananya Tirumala** \* – South Indian Kuchipudi

**Antara Asthaayi Dance** \* – North Indian Kathak

**Arenas Dance Company** – Afro-Cuban

**Bolivia Corazón de América** – Bolivian Folkloric (Tarabuco and Potosí)

**Caminos Flamencos** – Spanish Flamenco

**Charya Burt Cambodian Dance** – Cambodian Classical

**Chitresh Das Youth Company** – North Indian Kathak

**De Rompe y Raja Cultural Association** – Afro-Peruvian

**Ensembles Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco** – Mexican Folkloric (Tabasqueño)

**Kim Shuck** † – Poet Laureate of San Francisco

**Leung's White Crane Lion & Dragon Dance Association** – Chinese Dragon Dance

**Los Danzantes de Aztlán, Fresno State** – Mexican Folkloric (Huapangos)

**Mussel Rock Cloggers** ‡ – Appalachian Clogging

**Nimely Pan African Dance Company** – Liberian Folkloric

**Nunamta Yup'ik Eskimo Singers and Dancers** – Alaskan Yup'ik Eskimo

**OngDance Company** – Korean Traditional and Contemporary

**Parangal Dance Company** – Philippine Folkloric (Meranao)

**Te Pura O Te Rahura'a** \* – Tahitian 'Ōte'a and 'Aparima

**Ye Feng** \* – Chinese Contemporary

\*Artists who are new to the Festival

‡Artists performing at the Festival Opening Event at City Hall

### **Preshow musical performances by:**

**Chinyakare Ensemble** - Zimbabwean Traditional

**Hermanos Herrera** - Mexican Folkloric

**Te Pura O Te Rahura'a** - Tahitian 'Aparima

**Vinic-Kay (La Gente y El Canto)** - Mexican Folkloric

There will be world premiere performances of new works by Ananya Tirumala (Indian Kuchipudi), Antara Asthaayi Dance (Indian Kathak), Charya Burt Cambodian Dance (Cambodian Classical), Chitresh Das Youth Company (Indian Kathak), De Rompe y Raja Cultural Association (Afro-Peruvian), OngDance Company (Korean Traditional and Contemporary), Parangal Dance Company (Philippine Folkloric), and Ye Feng (Chinese Contemporary).

The Festival's Malonga Casquelourd Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in ethnic dance and music will be presented to four artists who have had extraordinary impact on the field:

- Lily Cai, Founder and Artistic Director of Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company
- Patty-Ann Farrell, the Festival's Lighting Designer and Auditions Stage Manager, who has been a part of the Festival team since it launched in 1978
- Chuna McIntyre, Founder and Artistic Director of Nunamta Yup'ik Eskimo Singers and Dancers
- Jamila Salimpour (In Memoriam), Founder of Bal Anat, and a major influence on belly dance in the United States for more than 50 years.

## **2018 SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL SCHEDULE**

**Festival Opening Event**  
**San Francisco City Hall**

**Friday, July 6 at Noon**

**FREE**

Rotunda Dance Series performance by **AERODANCE** (Indian Folkloric – Gujarat), **Mussel Rock Cloggers** (Appalachian Clogging), and **Kim Shuck**, Poet Laureate of San Francisco.

**Opera House Weekend One**

**Saturday, July 14 at 8pm**

**Sunday, July 15 at 2pm**

**TICKETS: \$25-\$45, ON SALE TUESDAY, APRIL 24, at**

**[sfethnicedancefestival.org](http://sfethnicedancefestival.org), or by calling City Box Office: 415.392.4400**

***Performances by 11 Bay Area dance and music ensembles showcasing traditions from around the world.***

*Preshow musical performance outside the Opera House by **Te Pura O Te Rahura'a** (Tahitian 'Aparima) and in the lobby by **Vinic-Kay (La Gente y El Canto)** (Mexican Folkloric)*

Performances by: **AguaClara Flamenco** (Spanish Flamenco), **Arenas Dance Company** (Afro-Cuban), **Bolivia Corazón de América** (Bolivian Folkloric–Tarabuco and Potosí), **Chitresh Das Youth Company** (North Indian Kathak), **Ensamble Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco** (Mexican Folkloric – Tabasqueño), **Leung's White Crane Lion & Dragon Dance Association** (Chinese Dragon Dance), **Nunamta Yup'ik Eskimo Singers and Dancers** (Alaskan Yup'ik Eskimo), **Parangal Dance Company** (Philippine Folkloric – Meranao), **Te Pura O Te Rahura'a** (Tahitian 'Ōte'a and 'Aparima), and **Ye Feng** (Chinese Contemporary).

**Opera House Weekend Two**

**Saturday, July 21 at 8pm**

**Sunday, July 22 at 2pm**

**TICKETS: \$25-\$45, ON SALE TUESDAY, APRIL 24, at**

**[sfethnicedancefestival.org](http://sfethnicedancefestival.org), or by calling City Box Office: 415.392.4400**

***Performances by 10 Bay Area dance and music ensembles showcasing traditions from around the world.***

*Preshow musical performance outside the Opera House by **Chinyakare Ensemble** (Zimbabwean Traditional) and in the lobby by **Hermanos Herrera** (Mexican Folkloric)*

Performances by: **Ananya Tirumala** (South Indian Kuchipudi), **Antara Asthaayi Dance** (North Indian Kathak), **Caminos Flamencos** (Spanish Flamenco), **Charya Burt Cambodian Dance** (Cambodian Classical), **De Rompe y Raja Cultural**

**Association** (Afro-Peruvian), **Los Danzantes de Aztlán de Fresno State** (Mexican Folkloric – Huapangos), **Nimely Pan African Dance Company** (Liberian Folkloric), and **OngDance Company** (Korean Traditional and Contemporary).

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High-resolution photos are available by request by contacting Scott Horton at (510) 735-9200. Images can also be downloaded at <http://worldartswest.org/about/press/photos.html>