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NEWS RELEASE

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ATTN: Arts & Entertainment Editors;
Music Editors; Calendar Editors

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DOOR DOG MUSIC PRODUCTIONS

The Twelfth Annual
SAN FRANCISCO WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL
*Featuring world-renowned Master Musicians and Festival Youth Orchestra in a
Festival commissioned world premiere*

“THE EPIC PROJECT: Madmen, Heroines & Bards from Around the World”

(San Francisco) – For more than a decade, Door Dog Music Productions has staged innovative, trail-blazing productions with master artists and youth in the Bay Area and from many countries abroad as a catalyst for cultural understanding. This October, experience three innovative evenings of transformation as our 12th annual **San Francisco World Music Festival** brings together the music of many cultures in a festival commissioned world premiere called *The Epic Project: Madmen, Heroines & Bards from Around the World*, featuring world renowned master musicians and the Festival’s International Music Youth Orchestra from the San Francisco Bay Area and several countries abroad, with Artistic Direction by **Michael Santoro**, Music Direction by **Jim Santi Owen**, Scenic & Lighting Design by **Matthew Antaky** and new music by international music composers **Swapan Chaudhuri** (North Indian), **Imamyar Hasanov** (Azerbaijani), **Anuradha Sridhar** (South Indian), and **Wang Xin Xin** (Chinese).

From the Silk Road steppes of Kyrgyzstan and the Yanar Dag fire mountains of Azerbaijan to the Sun Moon Lake forests of Taiwan and the Tamil Nadu rivers of India, *The Epic Project: Madmen, Heroines & Bards from Around the World* brings together master performers of Epic songs together for the first time on one stage. Drawing from the world’s oldest Epics, including video projections live-streamed from several countries around the world, this three-day commission will feature an Ashyg poet minstrel singing folk dastans of Azerbaijan, a Chinese Nanguan master performing *Dream of the Red Chamber*, and a Krygyz *Manas* epic chanter telling the story of its hero, *Manas*, in one of the world’s longest epics!

Featuring the heroes and villains of aural history from the remotest villages around the world, **THE EPIC PROJECT: MADMEN & EPIC HEROES** on OCTOBER 28 will open with the shout of a master epic chanter from Krgyzstan, with music by The Zainidin Imanaliev Kyrgyz Folk Ensemble making their US debut. This evening will also feature the music of North Indian tabla master Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri, in honor of his 30th year anniversary in the Bay Area teaching Indian music – an epic journey of great sacrifice. This evening will also feature members of the Festival’s International Music Youth Orchestra, other master musicians from around the world, and several world premiere compositions.

Looking through the lens of history with the perspective of women and girls, **THE EPIC PROJECT: HEROINES** on OCTOBER 29 continues with four major voices of female epic singers from around the world, including folk singers Gulara Mikayil Qizi Zeynalova from Azerbaijan, Yogini Janchup Palmo from Tibet, Master Wang Xin Xin from Taiwan and Mandjou Koné from West Africa, along with The Hasanov Ensemble from Azerbaijan and the Xin Xin Nanguan Ensemble each making their US debut. This evening will also feature members of the Festival's Youth Orchestra, other master musicians from around the world, and several world premiere compositions.

A culminating evening of epic proportions, honoring the lifetime achievement and teachings of South Indian Carnatic Music Master Anuradha Sridhar and Chinese Guzheng Master Liu Wei Shan, **THE EPIC PROJECT: BARDS** on OCTOBER 30 will culminate in a full multi-generational Festival Orchestra integrating Traditional Masters and Youth Virtuosi from the Bay Area and around the world. This evening will also feature members of the Festival's Youth Orchestra, other master musicians from around the world, and one fully integrated world premiere composition with all the Bards of "The Epic Project" together on stage.

Continuing in our efforts to introduce artists to the larger community, there are several outreach events this year, including **THE EPIC PROJECT: SCHOOL SHOW** on OCTOBER 27, a specially designed experience for Youths, Teachers and Schools of the Bay Area featuring world renowned Master Musicians plus members of the Festival's Youth Orchestra. In addition, the top 10 winners from **THE EPIC PROJECT: YOUTH VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION** (open to K-12 students from all schools in the San Francisco Unified School District until OCTOBER 15) will get their visual artwork projected onto stage during "The Epic Project" world premieres, plus additional prizes from local sponsors.

Festival Masters: Azerbaijani envoy including tar maestro **Rufat Hasanov** and female epic singer **Gulara Mikayil Qizi Zeynalova**; Kyrgyz envoy making US debut, including a Manas epic chanter **Talantaaly Bakchiev**, Kyrgyz master musicians **Zainidin Imanaliev**, **Kutmanaaly Sultanbekov**, **Nurbek Serkebaev**, and **Aizada Kasabolotova**; Chinese Nanguan epic singer **Wang Xin Xin** and dong xiao master **Wei Po Nien** making US debut; Tibetan epic & ritual singer **Yogini Janchup Palmo**; Azeri kamancha master **Imamyar Hasanov**; North Indian tabla master **Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri**; South Indian Carnatic violinist **Anuradha Sridhar**; Chinese guzheng master **Liu Wei Shan**; Chinese percussion virtuoso **Wang Wei**, Orff master teachers **Doug Goodkin**, **Sofia Lopez-Ibor**, **James Harding**; Griot singer **Mandjou Koné** and Griot musician **Malima Koné** from Burkina Faso.

Festival's International Music Youth Orchestra: Including members of the Ali Akbar College of Music Youth Tabla Ensemble, South Indian Youth Ensemble of the Trinity Center for Music, The San Francisco School Orff Ensemble, San Francisco Guzheng Society Youth Ensemble, Tibetan School of Northern California Youth Ensemble, and the Kyrgyz Jany-Tilek Village Youth Ensemble.

FESTIVAL BACKGROUND

The San Francisco World Music Festival, now in its 12th year, is produced by Door Dog Music Productions. The mission of Door Dog Music Productions is to harness the power of music to



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challenge human nature and inspire social change. In addition to supporting and revitalizing traditional music cultures around the world, we create multi-generational, trans-cultural dialogues through our innovative staged productions, music research, documentary films, and educational resources. Our unique position within the arts field enables us to develop new strategies for promoting global synergy and the diversity of cultures around the world.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE LIST:

THE EPIC PROJECT: Madmen, Heroines & Bards from Around the World

Friday, October 28, 2011 • 8pm

Program A: Madmen & Epic Heroes

Saturday, October 29, 2011 • 8pm

Program B: Heroines

Sunday, October 30, 2011 • 7pm

Program C: Bards

Festival Pass for Programs A, B & C: \$50

Individual Events: \$17 Members | \$20 Public | FREE to Seniors & Children Under 12

Thursday, October 27, 2011 • 10am & 12pm Program: The Epic Project School Show

\$10 Adult | \$5 Student (K-12) | FREE for Schools in need

FESTIVAL 2011 TICKETS & LOCATION FOR ALL SHOWS

Box Office: 415-292-1233

Venue: Jewish Community Center of San Francisco

Address: 3200 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94118

Web Site: Please see <http://www.sfworldmusicfestival.org> for full Festival Schedule.

FESTIVAL 2011 PRESS PHOTOS

PHOTO 1 Credit: Kyrgyz master artist Zainidin Imanaliev by Kate Vincent © Aga Khan Trust for Culture, courtesy of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings; PHOTO 2 Credit: Chinese master artist Wang Xin Xin by Cai Zhi Xiang, courtesy of Xin Xin Nanguan Ensemble; More high resolution press photos of all festival artists available upon request. Please e-mail ychen@doordog.org or call 415-561-6571, or visit <http://doordog.org/festival/PressImages.html>

FESTIVAL 2011 ONLINE VIDEO TRAILERS

See <http://doordog.org/festival/> for a series of video trailers of Bay Area and overseas musicians, youth, epic story fieldwork recordings and rehearsals coming together for this world premiere.

FESTIVAL 2011 SPONSORS & FUNDERS

The 12th annual San Francisco World Music Festival is presented in association with The Eugene & Elinor Friend Center for the Arts. The Festival's International Music Youth Orchestra is made possible by generous funding from the Sam Mazza Foundation. "The Epic Project" has been made possible by California Arts Council, Columbia Foundation, Fleishhacker Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts/WESTAF, Sam Mazza Foundation, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, The Christensen Fund, W.A. Gerbode Foundation, and Zellerbach Family Foundation. This festival commission has also been made possible by our sponsors and community partners, including the Ali Akbar College of Music, Alice Fong Yu Alternative School, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, FLAX art & design, Hotel Del Sol, Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, Oliver & Sabec, P.C., Phoenix Hotel, Plyboo: Smith & Fong, and Taalim-Forum, and Trinity Center for Music.