



# *Encuentro del Canto Popular*

*An annual concert celebrating Latino music with a social conscious.*

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Chelis Lopez  
(415) 648-1045  
encuentro@accionlatina.org

## **Legendary Colombian Performer Totó la Momposina Makes Rare Bay Area Appearance**

*Encuentro del Canto Popular celebrates 25 Years of Progressive Latino Music*

SAN FRANCISCO, October 2006 — The *Encuentro del Canto Popular* will commemorate its Silver Anniversary by bringing in one of Colombia's most beloved and legendary performers, Totó La Momposina to the Masonic Auditorium, Sat., December 9, 2006.

Nominated in 2002 for a Latin Grammy, Colombia's La Momposina represents the epitome of African-Colombian music. Born in a northern village situated on the island of Mompos, la Momposina's music is a brilliant fusion of Colombia's legacy of African, indigenous and European rhythms with a healthy sprinkling of *cumbia*. Her career, seeped in five generations of musicianship, began in 1968 when she formed her first group. La Momposina captivated world attention when she recorded the landmark album, "*La Candela Viva*" in 1993 for Peter Gabriel's Real World label.

In addition to la Momposina, the concert will also feature the Bay Area's own John Santos Quintet who will shake the auditorium with their home grown version of Latin jazz. Widely respected as one of the top educators and historians of Afro-Latin music, Santos is an award-winning multi-percussionist. His quintet features percussionist extraordinaire Orestes Vilató whose resume includes a list of Latin greats including Cachao, Bobby Hutcherson, Ray Barretto, The Fania All Stars, and Johnny Pacheco. Flautist John Calloway, bassist Saul Sierra, and pianist Marco Diaz round out the dynamic quintet.

Opening the evening is *Carne Cruda* (raw meat), a Bay Area band that has caused a sensation in California and Europe for their eclectic music style that hints of salsa and Caribbean rhythms. Their recent CD *Spicy Sea Adventures* is a 39-minute voyage through politics and social change.

For 25 years Encuentro has featured artists from across Latin America, the Caribbean and the Mission district. It has embraced and promoted *nueva canción* (new song), tradition music, and innovative Latin fusion that send a melodic message of peace and solidarity to the world. The Encuentro has provided a venue where acclaimed artists come together emerging musicians to

MORE

create cultural alchemy and inspiration. International artists include Susana Baca (Peru), Gabino Palomares (Mexico), Tania Libertad (Peru), Buffy Sainte-Marie (US), José Luis Quintana "Changuito", (Cuba), and Andrés Jiménez (Puerto Rico).

On Saturday, December 9th, la Momposina, the John Santos Quintet, and *Carne Cruda* invite us to celebrate *Encuentro Del Canto Popular's* Silver Anniversary with a great fandango and a huge rumba Latino-Americana Colombia style.

Acción Latina presents the 25<sup>th</sup> annual *Encuentro del Canto Popular* concert with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation. Media sponsors include *El Tecolote*, San Francisco Bay Guardian, Univision, KPFA, Telefutera, and others.

25<sup>th</sup> annual *Encuentro del Canto Popular*  
Saturday, December 9, 2006  
Masonic Auditorium  
1111 California St., San Francisco  
Box Office: (415) 292-9191 or [boxoffice@sfmasoniccenter.com](mailto:boxoffice@sfmasoniccenter.com)  
Tickets go on sale October 15.

For digital images go to: [www.accionlatina.org/encuentro](http://www.accionlatina.org/encuentro)

###