

PRESS RELEASE

Youssou N'Dour, Patti Smith, Marta Wainwright, Gotan Project, El Cigala, Toto La Momposina and Melody Gardot in La Mar de Músicas

The sixteenth edition of the festival in Cartagena will be devoted to culture from Colombia.

Colombia will be the main character in this 16th edition of La Mar de Músicas, organized by the Culture Department of Cartagena Town Hall and which will be held between 9th and 24th July. Music, Art, Cinema and Literature will revolve around this latinamerican country, but during the festival many other stars will shine, as **Salif Keita, Melody Gardot, Kronos Quartet & Alim Qasimov Ensemble, Toumani Diabaté, Youssou N'Dour, Patti Smith, Diego El Cigala, Gotan Project, Macaco, Aterciopelados, Marta Wainwright, Toto La Momposina...** and the project **Afro-Cubism**, whose worldwide premiere in Cartagena will start the festival, as it will be the opening night on 9th July. Afro-Cubism is the work that finally joins music from Cuba and Mali, after the frustrated attempt to merge musicians from both countries by Nick Gold in 1996 and which had the legendary Buena Vista Social Club as a result. Gold has eventually carried out his original idea and, after many of those fantastic Cuban musicians passed away, he has merged **Eliades Ochoa, Toumani Diabaté, Basekou Kouyaté** and **Kasse Mady** among others in a record which is going to be marketed this summer. All of them will open La Mar de Músicas in Cartagena.

The sixteenth edition of the festival will mainly show the musics of Colombia and a great part of the sounds from the latinamerican country will be played. The great lady of Colombian folklore **Toto La Momposina** introducing her new record La Bodega, **Cholo Valderrama**, the most remarkable performer of llanera music, **Los Gaiteros de San Jacinto (San Jacinto's Bagpipers)**, a music group from Colombia which keeps up the traditional bagpipes and drums music inherited from the Native, African and Spanish crossbreeding, and **Adolfo Pacheco y su conjunto de acordeón (Adolfo Pacheco and his group of accordions)**, writer of the most popular vallenatos of the Colombian music, will be a part of the most traditional Colombia schedule. But music from the latinamerican country has been updated and opened to more global urban sounds and as a token of this process **Aterciopelados, Bomba Estéreo, Chocquibtown** and **La Mojarra Eléctrica** will be performing. **La 33**, which has chosen the traditional salsa format but introducing jazz, folk and funk elements as well, and young songwriter **Marta Gómez** will be a part of the musical Colombia schedule.

The American continent will be a very important presence in the festival apart from Colombia. Besides having **Eliades Ochoa**, Cuba in the fantastic opening concert, the mythical psychedelic band **Os Mutantes**, back on stage with sensational new leading voice **Céu**, will visit the port town coming from Brazil. USA will have a great representation with new jazz diva **Melody Gardot**, or the only concert and national premiere in Spain by prestigious **Kronos Quartet** as the accompanist to Alim Qasimov, the most well-known and venerated singer from Azerbaijan. The patroness of punk **Patti Smith**, one of the most popular bands lately **Dirty Projectors**, and the national debut of the record in which **Marta Wainwright** sings to Edith Piaf, in addition to one of the new sensations in global music **Rupa & The April Fishes** will be performing within our schedule.

Africa. The three most remarkable faces in present day African music will be in La Mar de Musicas. The golden voice of Africa, that is to say **Salif Keita** comes back after his visit in 2006 edition in order to introduce his new record , *La Différence* which made him awarded with Prize Victorie of French music in *world music* category. Another one among the great if not the greatest, **Youssou N'Dour** is coming to introduce his amazing *Dakar-Kingston* a tribute record to Bob Marley, to reggae music and to Tyrone Downie, member of the Wailers. If Salif Keita and Youssou N'Dour are two of the main African voices, **Toumani Diabaté** is one of its most representative musicians, the great kora maestro. This musician from Mali will be accompanied by the Region de Murcia Symphonic Orchestra in a special project in which they will perform the concert previously done in Barbican Center in London together with the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall. This project will be carried out for the first time in Spain and La Mar de Musicas will be the only stage where it will be enjoyed. As well as Toumani and the Symphonic Orchestra, remarkable musicians from the Symmetric Orchestra, the band that has been playing with the musician from Mali for years and **Kasse Mady's** privileged voice will be performing too. Coming from Democratic Republic of Congo, **Staff Benda Bilili** will arrive, a group of street musicians, being some of them paraplegics due to polio who move using modified wheelchairs. Their music is a captivating mixture of classic Congolese orchestra rumba and afrocuban rhythms.

For the first and only time as well, we will be able to listen to the exquisite union between **Ballake Sissoko's** kora from Mali and French Vincent Segal's cello within the privileged stage in the Old Cathedral and the performance by the **Orchestre Poly-Rythmo de Cotonou**, one of the best kept secrets of Africa with their peculiar afrofunky music that was an inspiration to James Brown in the seventies as voodoo sound. Moreover, **The Very Best**, the brightest and most stirring band that could be found in any contemporary music gender, where Malawi oral tradition and cosmopolitan electronic pop live together.

From the Middle East, exactly from Syria, **Omar Souleyman** will arrive, a legend in his country where he and his band have arised as a basic element of folk-pop from Syria after the release of more than 500 cassettes.

Europe. Philippe Cohen Solal, Eduardo Makaroff and Christoph H. Müller are coming back, that is to say, **Gotan Project**. This group that is now synonymous with chic or cool, comes to introduce its new work, *Tango 3.0*. From Norway, **Kings of Convenience** will be with us, that duet which seems the result of mixing Belle & Sebastian with Simon & Garfunkel and which will be here with their new record *Declaration of Dependence*. One of the bets from the festival will be French young woman **Hindi Zahra**, with her fabulous joining of folk ballads, urban soul and desert blues which explores her Berber background as she was born in Morocco, and her current cultural enviroment influences. From Slovenia we will have one of the bands with a bigger projection inside the music of the world circuit, **Brina**. From Romania, **Mahala Rai Band**, group whose banner is thrilling and vertiginous sound, coming from Romanian tradition and which will introduce their new work *Ghetto Blasters* nationally in La Mar de Musicas. From United Kingdom we will welcome the prestigious engineer and producer Will Holland, settled in Cali, Colombia, hand in hand with his **Quantic & his Combo Barbaro**, in which electronic music and Caribbean sounds shake hands and, last but not least, the mythical **The Penguin Cafe**, which has been recovered by Simon Jeffes' son, one of the founders, is coming to our festival in a national premiere being this one the only concert in Spain.

Our country will be represented by **Macaco**, which will be responsible for the closing concert for the festival. Since they came for the first time in 2000 during Brazil edition, Macaco has brought all its records to Cartagena and *Puerto Presente* could not be least being this one the most successful record in their whole music career. If Macaco is the finale, **Muchachito Bombo Infierno** is the beginning as they will be introducing their new

work on the opening night. **Diego El Cigala** is coming back to one more edition of La Mar de Musicas and he will be here in order to introduce his new work Tango, accompanied by Nestor Marconi who is considered one of the most important and well-known bandoneon (large accordion) player in the world. Diego El Cigala will be performing on a night devoted to the twin festival El Cante de Las Minas in its 50th anniversary. Furthermore, **Baltakalan Experience** and **Sonidero Desmadre** will make the audience dance until the small hours.

But La Mar de Musicas is also La Mar de Cine (Cinema), La Mar de Arte (Arts) and La Mar de Letras (Literature). Colombian cinema has achieved a special recognition in the last years and it has obtained an international visibility that it did not have. Last year, its arrivals to first category festivals as Cannes with *Los viajes del viento* by Ciro Guerra, Toronto and Berlin, where it was awarded with the audience prize, *El vuelco del cangrejo* by Oscar Ruiz Navia and Venice with *La sangre y la lluvia* by Jorge Navas are a clear sign that something is happening with the national cinema. That something has to do with the results that the new Law of Cinema from 2003 is producing. That is the reason why a mostra was organized starting that year and closing in 2009, in a five year period which definitively will be remembered by historians as a key period of reference for Colombian film making industry. The fringe festival will show twelve films, three documentaries and eight short films from Colombian cinema.

This year, La Mar de Letras will gather in Cartagena several of the most remarkable voices of Colombian literature nowadays as **Juan Gabriel Vásquez**, **Santiago Gamboa**, **Rómulo Bustos Aguirre** and **Piedad Bonnett**. What's more, we will enjoy La Mar de Letras Award which rewards an author whose work has never been published in Spain, with the publication of one of his or her books in our country by El Cobre publishing house.

La Mar de Arte will gather in Cartagena the street performance of the group **Populardelujo** with the placing of representative images of popular graphics from Colombia, a revision on the popest creator on every inch of Colombia **Nadin Ospina**, an individual exhibition of the most recent work by the young artist from Barranquilla **Marco Mojica**, who deserved Fernando Botero Award and who is a contemporary sample of Colombian painting with a fundamental interest in figurative art. Besides, **Luz Ángela Lizarazu** will exhibit her photographic work based on the bars of the houses in Colombia, **Fernando Rubio Ahumada** will show his photographic project *Dislocaciones* where he has collected images and testimonies by people who live far from their homeland, **Willy Ramos**, Colombian resident in Murcia, will bring his colourful and exciting paintings. On the other hand, creator **Javier Codesal**, one of the Spanish pioneers of videoart, has specially carried out for La Mar de Musicas an incursion into the world of organized violence within Colombian society through video stories, photography and an installation.

Tickets for the scheduled concerts can already be bought in Nuevo Teatro Circo ticket boxes and on the webpages www.lamardemusicas.com and www.ticktackticket.com