

# The New Crossroads of American Music

Press Release

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SING-ALONG WITH DAN ZANES AND FRIENDS AT EMFkids!

*Greensboro, NC-* On **Thursday, July 17, 2009** join EMFkids in a sing-along concert featuring Grammy Award winner, songwriter and producer Dan Zanes and his band! **Dan Zanes and Friends** connect people from different cultures through the power of music in a show that progressively grows in popularity over the country. This performance will take place **at 7pm in the Sloan Theatre at Greensboro Day School** (5401 Lawndale Dr, Greensboro, NC 27455). Tickets may be purchased for \$18 by calling the EMF Box Office at Triad Stage at 336.272.0160 or 866.579.TIXX, or online at [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org). Family 4-packs are available for \$59.

Concerts by **Dan Zanes and Friends** are always cause for celebration, filled with singing and dancing to songs brimming with warmth, wisdom and wonderful music. The Grammy Award Winner is joined on stage by his “beautifully scruffy, harmonically precise, spirited, and better-than-ever band” performing songs sung in both English and Spanish in a homespun style, giving you the feeling that a bunch of wildly talented friends and neighbors just got together to throw a party... everyone’s invited!

Originally from New Hampshire, Dan Zanes is an American singer, songwriter and producer with a strong commitment to music and cultural diversity. Combining these two traits with his love for children, he has developed a musical career focused on the entertainment and education of young kids. With the backup of a remarkably talented band, Dan Zanes has traveled the United States and Latin America sharing his cultural awareness and varied musical style. Dan

Zanes and Friends uniqueness relies on their ability to mix musical genres and languages from different countries, resulting in a fascinating product that appeals to children and adults simultaneously. EMFkids is proud to have Dan Zanes & Friends join its 2009 season!

The **EMFkids** Program offers exciting, fun and educational opportunities for young children. Designed to foster an interest and understanding of music, day camps and concerts make learning FUN for all! EMF's educational programs and concerts are sponsored by the Cemala Foundation, the Music Academy of North Carolina, and UNCG.

**Tickets:** Triad Stage Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579.TIXX or [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org).

\*a service fee will apply

Discounts are available for full-time students with a valid ID, seniors aged 65 or older, and groups of 10 or more for most performances. Young Artists and EMFkids concerts offer family-friendly packages. Please call the box office about packages. This season most discounts will be available at the door. Discounts and gift certificates will not be accepted for concerts designated as special events.

*\*Dates, programs, venues, and artists are subject to change.*

### **More about Dan Zanes**

**Here are two things you should know right off about Dan Zanes**, two things that set him apart from the huge and festive field of people who have in the past few years begun making music for families and people of all ages in a way that is, frankly, changing the face of America, or the sound of it, at least. First, he is making homemade family music and encouraging similar behaviors in friends and neighbors. Second, he is the guy who is always interested in singing along with people, people everywhere. Which brings us to his mission, if you can call it a mission: Dan is introducing his musical friends to his neighborhood friends and then showing everybody not just that they, yes, can play together but that they can also feel pretty good while doing so. In this sense, Dan is a Twenty-first Century version of the guy who in the old days used to conduct the town band from the gazebo, though in lieu of a gazebo he's playing places like Carnegie Hall and The Melbourne International Arts Festival, where no matter how you say it good music is good. He is a ringmaster, introducing new songs and reconnecting people to songs that have always been there, and still are—it's just that people forgot about them.

Take, for example, Dan Zanes and Friends' "**Catch That Train!**" the 2007 Grammy Award winner for Best Musical Album for Children (co-released with Starbucks/Hear Music). It is the one CD in America today that brings together the Kronos Quartet, the Blind Boys of Alabama, Father Goose, Dan's mother-in-law, and the children of South Africa's Agape Orphanage to sing Zulu folk songs, an old labor organizing tune, a song about the joys of farming the English countryside, and of course a few train songs—all in an instrumental mix that highlights cuatros and lap steels and does not in any way discourage the use of trombone.

Dan's latest recording project is "**¡Nueva York!**" or what he is often heard calling his "pro-immigration CD." While the debate about who is eligible to live in the United States rages on,

Dan has been having a rocking time with new musical friends from the Latino world, celebrating some of the vibrant culture that comes with immigration. The result: a collection of songs from Puerto Rico, Mexico, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and other parts of the Spanish-speaking Americas which will be released in Spring 2008.

Keeping things all in the family, Dan also spent some time in 2007 with bandmate Father Goose (aka Wayne Rhoden) and longtime recording ally Rob Friedman co-producing “**It’s a Bam Bam Diddly!**”—a musical memoir of sorts, sounding very much like the most incredible block party stretching from Jamaica to Brooklyn and spilling out into neighborhoods around the globe, filled with Caribbean flavors and a cavalcade of great guests including Sister Carol, Sheryl Crow, Wayne Smith, Ansel Meditation, and Dan himself.

Lately, Dan has been spending his spare time with Spanish Dictionaries listening to salsa or merengue or norteño or anything along those lines; writing songs for films (and even making a cameo appearance here and there), developing on a children’s musical television show for Playhouse Disney (Disney Channel), and brushing up on Broadway tunes as his next recording project takes shape.

For the record, Dan Zanes was born in Exeter, New Hampshire in 1961. He was a member of the Del Fuegos from the beginning to the end of the eighties, and with them made “**The Longest Day**” (1984), “**Boston, Mass**” (1985), “**Stand Up**” (1987), “**Smoking in the Fields**” (1989), and the hit single, “**Don’t Run Wild.**” In 1994, he released a solo CD, “**Cool Down Time,**” shortly after which he moved to Brooklyn, N.Y. with his wife and daughter, where he then released “**Rocket Ship Beach**” (2000), an immediate hit with families around America, as well as with the *New York Times Magazine*, which said, “Zanes kids music works because it is not kids music; it’s just music—music that’s unsanitized, unpasteurized, that’s organic even.” His next CD, “**Family Dance**” (2001) was comprised of songs that are difficult not to dance to, and feature Loudon Wainwright III and Roseanne Cash and a lot of dancing that you can’t actually *see* but you can imagine. Next in the Festival Five family series came “**Night Time!**” (2002)—featuring collaborations with Aimee Mann and Lou Reed—followed by the Grammy nominated “**House Party**” (2003), a rambunctious twenty-song collection that includes Deborah Harry, Bob Weir, and Philip Glass, as well as the Rubí Theater Company and Rankin Don (a.k.a Father Goose). “**Sea Music,**” a collection of maritime songs that was the first CD in the Festival Five Folk Series, and was cited in *Rolling Stone*’s Hot Issue in the category of Hot Maritime Sounds. The next CD in the Folk Series—“**Parades and Panoramas: 25 Songs Collected by Carl Sandburg for The American Songbag**”—is the disk on which Dan’s scruffy troupe of musicians dragged the poet’s 1927 collection of songs kicking and screaming into this century, with traditional instruments, with tuba-driven electric guitars, with whatever it takes. And, while no one was looking Dan co-authored two picture book collaborations with the artist Donald Saaf **Jump Up!**, and **Hello Hello** (Little, Brown and Company Books), and appeared in the Dan Zanes and Friends concert DVD, entitled “**All Around the Kitchen!**” (2005) recorded at the Knitting Factory, in New York City.

### **More about the Eastern Music Festival**

Now in its 48th year, the Eastern Music Festival & School is recognized for its prodigious contributions to the field of American music and its commitment to nurturing talented American

and international youth through a collaborative learning process. The program brings together a cross-section of America's most sought-after artists with pre-professional students in a five-week schedule of 100 concerts and music-related events. **Music Director Gerard Schwarz** heads a distinguished list of participating artists scheduled for 2009, including **Peter Serkin, Sarah Chang, Horacio Gutiérrez, Nadja Salerno Sonnenberg, Xavier Phillips**, plus many others.

The Festival also produces a popular EMF*fringe* series of alternative programming, featuring everything from Americana to alt country, blues, jazz and gospel with artists such as **Mike Cross, The John Cowan Band, Laurelyn Dosett, Steep Canyon Rangers, Waybacks, The Chris Hicks Band**, blues artist **Larry McCray** and more. EMF*kids* offers camps and concerts with each uniquely designed to foster a love and knowledge for classical and non-classical music. This year's concerts are **Shana Banana** and **Dan Zanes**. EMF*jazz&blues* runs each spring and EMF Fringe on the Fall each autumn. Season tickets on sale through June 27<sup>th</sup> (EMF*fringe* season tickets on sale through July 9<sup>th</sup>); single tickets on sale now. [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org); Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579-TIXX.

The 2009 Eastern Music Festival season is sponsored in part by the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, the North Carolina Arts Council, Lincoln Financial Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Southern Arts Federation, WFDD Triad Arts Station, Greensboro's News and Record, Continental Airways, Yes! Weekly, and Piedmont Music Center (Steinway Pianos).

For more information about EMF or its programs, please visit [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org), or call toll free: 1.877.833.6753

*The Eastern Music Festival's mission is to promote musical enrichment, excellence, professional collaboration, innovation and diversity through a nationally-recognized teaching program, music festival, concerts and other programs which will enhance the quality of life, health and vitality of our region.*

EMF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.  
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