Dan Zanes

Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 1:00 pm
This is the 717th concert in Koerner Hall

Dan Zanes, vocals, guitar, mandolin & harmonica
Claudia Eliaza, vocals, guitar, flute & percussion

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Grammy Award winner Dan Zanes occupies a unique place in American music where sea shanties, English music hall, North American and West Indian folk music, play party songs, the spirit of early rock-and-roll, and soulful originals collide. With his band, Dan Zanes and Friends, he has toured the world sharing handmade 21st century social music with enthusiastic crowds of kids and kid sympathizers.

From thrift shop basements to Carnegie Hall, from Brooklyn to Bahrain and beyond, Zanes has been introducing new songs and reconnecting people to ones that have always been there, and still are – although people may have forgotten about them. Referred to as "the family-music genre's most outspoken and eloquent advocate" by *Time* magazine, his widely acclaimed music has been featured on *Sesame Street*, *Playhouse Disney*, *Nickelodeon*, *HBO Family*, and *Sprout*.

In 2014, he partnered with the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music to launch an innovative pre-school music education program called *The House Party: Songs and Stories from Americas Neighborhoods*. As he continues to expand his work as an educator, he is also recording a CD based on the children's music of his musical inspiration and main man, Lead Belly.

Zanes was born in Exeter, New Hampshire, in 1961. He wasted his youth as a member of the Del Fuegos from the beginning to the end of the eighties. The group made four albums and toured the U.S. and Europe several times. In 1994, he released a solo CD, *Cool Down Time*, shortly after which he moved to Brooklyn, New York, and released *Rocket Ship Beach* (2000), his first step on the long road of children's music. It became an immediate hit with families around America and the following years he released 14 CDs and 2 DVDs of "all-ages handmade social music" on his Festival Five label. *The New York Times* said, "Zanes' kids music works because it is not kids music; it's just music – music that's unsanitized, unpasteurized, that's organic even," and *Houston Chronicle* said "Dan Zanes has quietly become the best new thing to happen to family music in the nearly four decades since Woody Guthrie's death."

Both artists are making their Royal Conservatory debuts this afternoon.