

# festival five records

For Immediate Release

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## **GRAMMY-WINNERS DAN ZANES AND FRIENDS CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF HANDMADE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY ALL-AGES MUSIC**

This Fall marks the 10th anniversary of *Rocket Ship Beach*, the first CD of 21<sup>st</sup> century handmade all-ages family music from Dan Zanes and Friends. Zanes began exploring age-desegregated music after the birth of his daughter in 1994 and soon after decided to abandon a pop music career, which had included four albums with Boston's Del Fuegos, to form Festival Five Records, his decidedly independent label, and pursue family music full time. "Rocket Ship Beach" was an immediate hit with families around America and ten years and ten albums later, the Grammy award-winning artist is known widely as the leading man of the family music genre.

Following his two releases in 2009, (*76 Trombones* and *The Fine Friends are Here* concert DVD-both *Parents Choice Award winners*) Zanes spent this year working on a variety of eclectic projects. In July he began hosting his own monthly Sirius/XM radio show "Rocket Ship Beach Radio" a self-described mix of music, storytelling, and mellow chatter. Dan also began the "Family Band Workshop" video series of free music lessons on his web site encouraging his fans to start their own family bands and showing them how it might be done. The newly revamped [danzanes.com](http://danzanes.com) also now provides lyrics and chords for most of the tunes on all of the 10 DZAF CDs.

2010 also included a unique musical collaboration between Zanes and the Pilobolus dance company titled "Contradance". Since its debut at the American Dance Festival in North Carolina this summer the piece has become a regular part of the Pilobolus canon and the soundtrack, written and recorded by Zanes, will be released on Festival Five Records this holiday season. Festival Five will also release a limited edition re-mastered LP of "Rocket Ship Beach" this winter in commemoration of its 10-year anniversary.

Zanes has also just completed construction of a new studio in Brooklyn where he will spend the winter months with his merry band of friends recording a new CD due out in summer 2011. Dan Zanes and Friends, who like to say that they went from performing in thrift shop basements to Carnegie Hall, are celebrating the 10-year anniversary with a steady touring schedule throughout the US as well as return trips to England and Bahrain. Past overseas touring has included shows in Australia, Canada, and Spain. The band regularly performs with local groups, particularly youth orchestras and West African drum and dance ensembles.

Among the several Parents Choice Award-winning, bestselling albums for kids and kid sympathizers are the acclaimed *House Party*, *Night Time!*, *¡Nueva York!*, and *Catch That Train!*, which won the 2007 Grammy for "Best Musical Album for Children." Music videos for Zanes' songs have aired on The Noggin Network, Sesame Street and The Disney Channel's "Playhouse Disney."

Dan Zanes and Friends are: Dan Zanes, Colin Brooks, Sonia De Los Santos, Saskia Sunshine Lane and Elena Moon Park.

### **For more information, please contact:**

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