

CONTACT:  
ChristinaKellogg 510.643.6714  
ckellogg@calperformances.org  
Joe Yang 510.642.9121  
scyang@calperformances.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 21, 2011

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF  
LORIN MAAZEL'S CASTLETON FESTIVAL OPERA AND ITS  
*BRITTEN PROJECT* THURSDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 24-27**

*The Rape of Lucretia* and *Albert Herring* will be performed at Zellerbach Hall with  
Maazel conducting the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra

*Sightlines*: A pre-performance talk by Dr. John Evans, editor of *Journeying Boy: The  
Diaries of the Young Benjamin Britten*, will be given on March 24-26 at 7:00 p.m.

**BERKELEY, FEBRUARY 21, 2011**—Castleton Festival Opera and its Artistic Director, Maestro **Lorin Maazel**, will expand west for the first time from their Virginia home base to bring two operas by **Benjamin Britten** to Cal Performances' **Zellerbach Hall**. Under the banner *The Britten Project*, Maazel's company of gifted, emerging artists along side seasoned, international singers will perform Britten's first chamber opera, *The Rape of Lucretia* on **Thursday and Friday, March 24 and 25 at 8:00 p.m.** It will be followed by Britten's comic chamber opera, *Albert Herring*, on **Saturday, March 26 at 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, March 27 at 3:00 p.m.**; the production includes Bay Area favorite, soprano **Nancy Gustaffson**, as Lady Billows. Maestro Maazel will conduct the **Berkeley Symphony Orchestra** in the four performances of these two fully staged operas. "The Castleton Festival is a small gem. There are a lot of festivals out there that specifically offer experience to young professionals, but not all of them offer intensive one-on-one interaction with the likes of Maazel, and the caliber of artists he's drawn to Castleton reflects his pull" (*The Washington Post*).

*Sightlines* pre-performance talks will be given by Dr. **John Evans**, author of many works on Britten, and most recently editor of *Journeying Boy: The Diaries of the Young Benjamin Britten*, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 24, 25 and 26, at 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. This event is free to performance ticket holders.

-MORE-

## THE PROGRAM

First performed in 1946, *The Rape of Lucretia* was Britten's first chamber opera, written for a small cast, no chorus, and an orchestra of 13 players, using a libretto by **Ronald Duncan**. A male chorus and a female chorus, just one person apiece, provide Greek chorus-like comment on the ancient, tragic tale of hard-drinking Roman soldiers on campaign, their unfaithful wives back home, the virtuous Lucretia, and the treacherous prince Tarquinius who rapes her and drives her to suicide. The cast for the Castleton Festival production is **Vale Rideout** as the male chorus; **Arianna Zukerman** as the female chorus; **Michael Rice** as Collatinus; **Michael Weyandt** as Junius; **Matthew Worth** as Tarquinius; **Ekaterina Metlova** as Lucretia; **Alison Tupay** as Bianca; and **Marnie Breckenridge** as Lucia.

Britten's *Albert Herring*, written just a year after *The Rape of Lucretia*, is a comic chamber opera set in the early 20th-century England. Using a libretto by **Eric Crozier** based loosely on a story by **Guy de Maupassant**, *Albert Herring* employs some of Britten's wittiest music to tell the story of the shy, chaste Albert; his overbearing mother; and the goings-on before, during, and after the May Day festival in a small, gossipy East Suffolk market town. The cast for *Albert Herring* will include **Nancy Gustafson** as Lady Billows, **Kristin Patterson** as Florence Pike, **Ashleigh Semkew** as Miss Wordsworth, **Alexander Tall** as Vicar Gedge, **Tyler Nelson** as Mayor Upford, **Ben Bloomfield** as Superintendent Budd, **Adrian Kramer** as Sid, **Brian Porter** as Albert, **Tammy Coil** as Nancy, and **Rachel Calloway** as Mrs. Herring. (Singers for the roles of Emmie, Cis and Harry are to be announced.)

## LORIN MAAZEL

Over five decades, Maestro **Lorin Maazel** has cemented his reputation as one of the world's most esteemed and sought-after conductors. He has conducted more than 150 orchestras in more than 5,000 opera and concert performances and made over 300 recordings, and has served for seven seasons as the music director of the New York Philharmonic. Born in Paris in 1930 to American parents, he began violin studies at age five and conducting lessons at age seven; his first conducting appearance was at age eight, and between the ages of nine and 15, he conducted many major American orchestras. At 17-years-old, he entered the University of

Pittsburgh, and at the age of 23 he made his European conducting debut. He was the first American to appear at the Beyreuth Festival in 1960; he appeared at the 1963 Salzburg Festival.

Also a prolific composer, Maazel wrote his first opera, *1984*, based on George Orwell's book, and premiered it at London's Royal Opera House in 2005. He has also written concerti, symphonic, and chamber works, including two pieces based on children's stories *The Giving Tree* and *The Empty Pot*. His work with young artists has been widely recognized and acclaimed; he established a competition for young conductors in 2000 that culminates in a performance at Carnegie Hall, and has mentored and launched the career of many of the competition's finalists. He also established the Castleton Residency Program for young artists in 1997, which grew into the Castleton Festival.

## CASTLETON FESTIVAL

An outgrowth of the Castleton Residency Program, the Castleton Festival was established in 2009 by Lorin Maazel and his wife, **Dietlinde Turban-Maazel**. Under the umbrella of the Maazels' Châteauxville Foundation, the Castleton Festival brings together some 200 young artists—singers, conductors, instrumentalists, directors, costume designers, and lighting designers—to live at the Maazels' 550-acre farm and estate, 60 miles outside of Washington, DC, for several weeks each summer. The Festival features four weeks of summertime performances, preceded by several weeks of rehearsals, and are a coveted ticket in the Capitol region. Maazel's productions prove that "well-trained, carefully directed younger singers can deliver polished, high-quality portrayals" commented *Opera News* (UK). The Castleton Festival stages two new opera productions and two revivals each year, as well as symphonic concerts, training activities, and informal performances. Venues on the Castleton Farm—the main building of which served as a hospital to both Confederate and Union forces in the Civil War—include a permanent 130-seat theatre and a 450-seat temporary festival tent. Festival performances are also presented in the 1,100-seat Hylton Performing Arts Center in nearby Manassas, Virginia.

The company has formed a new partnership with Cal Performances to expand and extend Castleton Festival's reach. Maestro Maazel has described Cal Performances as "one of the most

imaginative and comprehensive arts programs” presented in the United States. “I am immensely proud to have our productions showcased in Berkeley,” he said.

For its 2011 season, the Castleton Festival has also established a partnership with China’s National Centre for the Performing Arts, and will present concerts in Beijing after the residential festival ends in Virginia.

## TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Castleton Festival Opera, Lorin Maazel**, artistic director and conductor, performing Benjamin Britten’s *The Rape of Lucretia* on **Thursday and Friday, March 24 and 25 at 8:00 p.m.**, and Britten’s *Albert Herring* on **Saturday, March 26 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 27 at 3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$44.00, \$58.00, \$72.00 and \$90.00.** Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org).

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced three hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. Information is available on Cal Performances’ Facebook page and at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

# # #

Cal Performances' 2010/11 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

KDFC is media sponsor of the 2010/11 Season

These performances are made possible in part by the Britten-Pears Foundation

# # #

**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:  
CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

Thurs., Fri., & Sat., March 24–26 at 7:00 p.m.

**SIGHTLINES**

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

Pre-performance talk by Dr. John Evans, author of several works on Britten, and most recently editor of *Journeying Boy: The Diaries of the Young Benjamin Britten*. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. This event is free to ticket holders.

# # #

Thursday & Friday, March 24 & 25 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

***Opera***

Castleton Festival Opera

The Britten Project

*The Rape of Lucretia*

Lorin Maazel, artistic director and conductor

Program:

Britten/*The Rape of Lucretia*

**Tickets:** \$44.00, \$58.00, \$72.00 and \$90.00 for all performances; available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

# # #

Saturday, March 26 at 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, March 27 at 3:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

*Opera*

Castleton Festival Opera

The Britten Project

*Albert Herring*

Lorin Maazel, artistic director and conductor

Program:

Britten/*Albert Herring*

**Tickets: \$44.00, \$58.00, \$72.00 and \$90.00** for all performances; available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

---

– Cal Performances –