HUNGARIAN PIANIST ANDRÁS SCHIFF RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES FOR A RECITAL OF BACH, BARTÓK AND BEETHOVEN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, AT 8:00 P.M.

BERKELEY, January 27, 2012—The acclaimed pianist András Schiff returns to Cal Performances for one night only on Wednesday, February 29, at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. A true master of music, he is known to “[draw] listeners with his singing tone, elegantly shaped phrases and exquisite contrapuntal detailing” (Los Angeles Times). The evening’s program will include J. S. Bach’s Three-Part Inventions, written originally as part of Bach’s musical education exercises for his students; Béla Bartók’s Piano Sonata; and one of Ludwig van Beethoven’s supreme piano works, Diabelli Variations. With a reputation forged on Bach, Mozart, Schubert and Schumann repertoire interpretations, Schiff recently completed the recording and touring of Beethoven’s complete cycle of 32 piano sonatas. “There can be a born Mozart interpreter, or a born Schubert interpreter,” says Schiff. “But in my mind there is no such thing as a born Beethoven interpreter—you have to learn how to approach this work, and much of that comes from life’s lessons.”

Born in Hungary in 1953, András Schiff began studying piano at age five. Throughout his career, recitals and special projects have taken him around the world performing with major international orchestras and conductors. In 1999, Schiff created the chamber orchestra Cappella Andrea Barca for a seven-year series performing the complete Mozart piano concertos in Salzburg. Between 2004 and 2009, Schiff performed complete cycles of the 32 Beethoven piano sonatas in 20 cities throughout the United States and Europe, a project which was recorded live in the Zurich Tonhalle and released in eight volumes for ECM’s New Series.

Schiff has been awarded numerous international prizes including the most recent Schumann Prize 2011 given by the city of Zwickau; the Klavier-Festival Ruhr Prize for outstanding pianistic achievements in 2009; the Wigmore Hall Medal in appreciation of 30 years
of music-making at Wigmore Hall in 2008; and the *Premio della critica musicale Franco Abbiati* from Italy in 2007 for his Beethoven sonata cycle.

Schiff’s North American recital tour this season includes performances at the Budapest Festival Orchestra at the Kennedy Center, the Salzburg Marionette Theater at Princeton, and recitals in Philadelphia, Vancouver, Toronto, Boulder, Napa and Berkeley, where he was last seen in October 2005. For more information, go to kirshdem.com/artist.php?id=andrasschiff.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for András Schiff on Wednesday, February 29, at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall begin at $30.00. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; 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 $5.00 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.

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 at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Bank of America for major support of the 2011/12 Season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Wednesday, February 29, at 8:00 p.m.  Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Recital
András Schiff, piano

Program:
Bach/Three-Part Inventions
Bartók/Piano Sonata
Beethoven/Diabelli Variations

Tickets: Begin at $30.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

Cal Performances