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THE GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING ASSAD BROTHERS RETURN TO CAL PERFORMANCES FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

BERKELEY, January 6, 2012—Virtuoso Brazilian guitarists **Sèrgio and Odair Assad** return with their artistry and uncanny ensemble playing rich in Brazilian and South America musical traditions to Cal Performances **Friday, February 17 at 8:00 p.m. in First Congregational Church**. Their performances together display the exuberant spirit and scorching musical technique that has earned them reputations as two of today's most innovative and interesting musicians in the world of Latin music. *The Los Angeles Times* called a recent concert "a stunning display of the music of the Western Hemisphere." Their Cal Performances program explores the artists' varied repertoire including work from Bach and Villa-Lobos to Gershwin and Piazzolla.

The Assad brothers are known for their impeccable musical union and collaborations with artists including Yo-Yo Ma, Dawn Upshaw, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and Gidon Kremer. They have played a major role in reviving contemporary music for guitar duo and their virtuosity has inspired a wide range of composers such as Astor Piazzolla, Terry Riley, Marios Nobre and Jorge Morel to write music for them. Now Sérgio Assad is adding to the duo's repertoire by composing music for their duo as well as various musical partners, including symphonies and orchestras.

The brothers began studying guitar together as children and went on to study for seven years with Monina Tavora, a disciple of Andres Segovia. Their international career began in 1979 at the young artists competition in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. Since then they have toured and recorded extensively. In 2001 *Sérgio and Odair Assad Play Piazzolla* won a Latin Grammy Award. In the winter of 2008, the Assads curated a guitar festival at the 92nd St. Y in New York and then toured with some of those artists in a project called *Brazilian Guitar Festival* featuring Badi Assad, Romero Lubambo and Celso Machado. In February 2011, Sérgio premiered a new concerto for two guitars with the Seattle Symphony. Odair is currently based in Brussels where

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he teaches at Ecole Supérieure des Arts and Sérgio resides in San Francisco, where he is on the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory, and Paris. More information is available at www.assadbrothers.com.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **The Assad Brothers, on Friday, February 17 at 8:00 p.m.** in First Congregational Church are priced at **\$42.00**. 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. The Family Fare series offers 50% off single ticket prices for children 16 and younger. The Saturday, November 26th at 2:00 p.m. performance is a Family Fare performance. 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.

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.

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

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

Friday, February 17 at 8:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

World Stage

The Assad Brothers

Sérgio Assad, guitar

Odair Assad, guitar

Program: Brazilian guitarists Sérgio and Odair Assad explore the work of composers ranging from Bach and Villa-Lobos to Gershwin and Piazzolla.

Tickets: \$42.00, 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.

– Cal Performances –