

CONTACT:
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu
Joe Yang 510.642.9121
scyang@calperfs.berkeley.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 22, 2011

**RUSSIAN PIANIST KIRILL GERSTEIN, 2010 WINNER
OF THE GILMORE ARTIST AWARD, MAKES
HIS CAL PERFORMANCES DEBUT ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12,
AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

BERKELEY, December 22, 2011—Russian pianist Kirill Gerstein, whose playing is called “brilliant, perceptive and stunningly fresh” by *The New York Times*, comes to Cal Performances for the first time on **Sunday, February 12, at 3:00 p.m. at Hertz Hall**. Gerstein, the 2010 winner of the coveted Gilmore Artist Award, will play a varied program of works by **J.S. Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ferruccio Busoni, Carl Maria von Weber, Robert Schumann, Franz Schubert, Franz Liszt** and **Oliver Knussen** whose composition was commissioned for Gerstein by the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, the organization that sponsors the Gilmore Artist Award. At the New York premiere, Gerstein played Knussen’s nine-minute work twice, saying it deserved an immediate second hearing.

PROGRAM

Kirill Gerstein will open his program with Bach’s English Suite No. 6 in D minor, BWV#811. Written before 1820, the suite has seven movements: Prelude, Allemande, Courante, Sarabande, Gavotte I, Gavotte II and Gigue. Next on the program is Gigue, Bolero and Variations by Mozart, arranged by Ferruccio Busoni. Taken from a collection called *An die Jugend*, the pieces were first performed by the arranger in 1909. Knussen’s *Ophelia’s Last Dance* (2010) is followed by Carl Maria von Weber’s *Invitation to the Dance* which closes out the first half of the program. Dedicated to the composer’s wife Caroline and written in 1819, *Invitation* was the first concert waltz ever composed.

After an intermission, Gerstein will return with *Carnaval*, a collection of 21 short pieces written in 1834–1835 by Schumann. The program will conclude with *Soirées de Vienne*, a collection of nine pieces written by Schubert and arranged and expanded by Liszt around 1850.

-MORE-

KIRILL GERSTEIN

Kirill Gerstein was born in 1979 in Voronezh, Russia. His mother was a music teacher and his father a mathematician; together they had a large collection of jazz records, which young Kirill spent hours listening to. He began serious piano study at age 10, and spent several summers at jazz workshops in Poland as a child. At age 14, encouraged by vibraphonist Gary Burton, Gerstein began jazz studies at Boston's Berklee College of Music. Within a few years he turned his attention to classical music and transferred to the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Solomon Mikowsky and earned undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Gerstein's acclaim grew as he won the 2001 Arthur Rubinstein Piano Competition, the 2002 Gilmore Young Artist Award, and Carnegie Hall's "Rising Star" award for the 2005–2006 season. His award-winning streak culminated with the 2010 Gilmore Artist Award, a prize given to an exceptional pianist who, regardless of age, fame, or nationality, possesses broad and profound musicianship and charisma. The Gilmore Artist Award is given every four years and carries a \$300,000 prize; an anonymous committee awards the prize, and the recipient is selected in secret rather than via a public competition. Gerstein is the first Gilmore Artist Award winner who also won the Gilmore Young Artist Award.

Gerstein has played with major symphony orchestras and conductors throughout Europe and the Americas, as well as at major festivals including Tanglewood, Blossom, Salzburg and Lucerne. As a recitalist, he has appeared on stages throughout Europe and the United States. His recordings include a disc for Myrios Classics of recital works by Schumann, Liszt and Knussen. In 2012, he will record George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with students and faculty of the Berklee College of Music. In addition to an active performance and recording schedule, Gerstein is professor of piano at the Musikhochschule in Stuttgart. His official website is www.kirillgerstein.com.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Kirill Gerstein**, piano on **Sunday, February 12**, in Hertz Hall 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. 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.

#

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

KDFC is media sponsor of the 2011/12 Season

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, February 12, at 3:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Recital

Kirill Gerstein, piano

Program:

Bach/English Suite No. 6 in D minor, BWV#811

Mozart arr. Busoni/Gigue, Bolero and Variations

Knussen/*Ophelia's Last Dance*

Weber/*Invitation to the Dance*, Op. 65, J. 260

Schumann/*Carnaval*

Schubert arr. Liszt/*Soirées de Vienne*

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 –