

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
VIOLIN VIRTUOSO NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG
ACCOMPANIED BY AWARD-WINNING PIANIST ANNE-MARIE McDERMOTT
FRIDAY, MARCH 4 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL

"One of the few classical artists who must be experienced in person."
– *The Washington Post*

BERKELEY, January 28, 2005 – Preternaturally gifted violinist **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg**, accompanied by pianist **Anne-Marie McDermott**, comes to **Cal Performances** for a recital at Zellerbach Hall on **Friday, March 4 at 8:00 p.m.** Hailed for her highly individual, passionate performances, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg is recognized as one of the world's preeminent violinists, a performer in full command of her art. The American born Ms. McDermott is widely celebrated for her performances on the world's most illustrious stages. "The pairing of Salerno-Sonnenberg and McDermott is a miracle match-up. Alas, their crowded calendars permit very few duo performances, which [makes] this experience all the more precious" (*San Antonio Express*). The duo will play Mozart's Sonata in B-flat major, K. 454; Sonata for Violin and Piano, the only violin sonata by Francis Poulenc, written in 1943 in homage to Spanish poet Federico García Lorca; and Brahms' Sonata No. 3 in D minor, Op. 108.

NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG

Violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg is celebrated worldwide as one of the most original and fearless artists on the concert stage today. Renowned for her electrifying performances, passionate interpretations and musical depth, she is sought after by today's greatest conductors and orchestras, as well as by fellow artists for collaborations in both classical and other genres. Acclaimed by the press in the performance and recording arenas, she is "breathtakingly daring and original" (*The Washington Post*) and an artist of "undeniable virtuosity" (*Chicago Sun-Times*).

Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg splits her focus this 2004-2005 season between orchestral and collaborative performances. Following summer performances at some of the most prestigious

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music festivals in the United States, including Ravinia, Aspen and the Cabrillo Festival; orchestral engagements across the US include the Seattle Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Colorado Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, San Diego Symphony and the Columbus Symphony. Fellow musicians with whom she collaborates this season in addition to pianist Anne-Marie McDermott in recital are jazz violinist Regina Carter and Celtic violinist Eileen Ivers, and duo guitarists Sérgio and Odair Assad for a spring 2005 tour. Internationally, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg travelled to Brazil in December 2004 to perform with the Assads in orchestral concerts with the Orquestra Sinfonica do Estado de São Paulo and to England in January 2005 to perform with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

An engaging communicator whose sense of humor and naturalness in front of the camera has not gone unnoticed, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg has been featured on a variety of television programs, not only as a guest on talk shows, but as a host and featured actress/musician. She has appeared in a cameo on ABC's *Dharma & Greg* (2001); in a special segment on PBS' Children's Television Workshop's award winning program *Sesame Street*; and as the subject of a 2000 Academy Award nominated documentary film on her life, entitled *Speaking In Strings* (which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival). Released in theaters nationwide during the summer of 1999, *Speaking in Strings* subsequently premiered on HBO's Signatures channel in December 1999. She has hosted PBS Backstage/Live from Lincoln Center and been featured in a commercial for Signet Bank. Her guest appearances are numerous, and include *60 Minutes*, *60 Minutes II*, and *Sunday Morning*; CNN's *Newsstand*; NBC *National News* and *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson* (several times); A & E's *Artist of the Week with Elliot Forrest*; Bravo's *Arts & Minds* and *The Art of Influence*; PBS' *Live from Lincoln Center*, *The Charlie Rose Show*, and *City Arts*, as well as the PBS/BBC series *The Mind*. In 1989, Crown Books published *Nadja: On My Way*, an autobiography written for children in which she shares her experiences as a young musician building a career. In 1999, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg was featured in a book on celebrities entitled *The Virtuoso*.

Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg's versatility and vast range of interpretive skills are further demonstrated in the recording field, where she is considered a groundbreaker. With over 20 recordings to her credit, her current CDs are on the Nonesuch and Angel/EMI Classics labels. In

addition to standard classical repertoire, including Barber, Brahms, Bruch, Chausson, Debussy, Mendelssohn, Paganini, Shostakovich, Vivaldi, and Wolf (all recorded for EMI Classics), Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg has received critical acclaim for several crossover discs as well: a self-titled recording of gypsy music from Eastern Europe with the duo guitarists the Assads (Nonesuch 2000); *Humoresque* (Nonesuch 1998), a CD of music from the 1947 film *Humoresque* that combines classical works and pop standards, which the *New York Times* has called “a valuable historical document;” and *It Ain’t Necessarily So* (Angel/EMI 1995) which includes works by Gershwin, Kreisler, and Scott Joplin, among others. Included among her recordings is *Speaking In Strings* (Angel/EMI 1999) comprised of music from the Counterpoint Film’s documentary on Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg of the same title. An admirer of all musical genres, she has made guest appearances on recordings by Mandy Patinkin, Joe Jackson and Keith Jarrett, and has also collaborated with such artists as Judy Blazer, Roger Kellaway, Bob James, Regina Carter, Eileen Ivers and Janis Siegel. Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg has been working on several new recordings, including a live recording made at New York’s Merkin Hall in April 2004 with pianist Anne-Marie McDermott, and a recording of Mark O’Connor’s *Concerto for Two Violins* with the violinist/composer on the OMAC label, to be released in the 2004-05 season. Scheduled for next season are recordings of Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto in D, Op. 35, and the world premiere recordings of Clarice Assad’s *Violin Concerto* and *Concerto Origins* by Sérgio Assad.

Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg’s professional career began in 1981 when she won the Walter W. Naumburg International Violin Competition. In 1983 she was recognized with an Avery Fisher Career Grant, and in 1988 was Ovarions Debut Recording Artist of the Year. In 1999 she was honored with the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize, awarded to instrumentalists who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and excellence in music. In May of that same year, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg was awarded an honorary Masters of Musical Arts from New Mexico State University, the first honorary degree the University has ever awarded. An American citizen, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg was born in Rome and emigrated to the United States at the age of eight to study at The Curtis Institute of Music. She later studied with Dorothy DeLay at The Juilliard School.

ANNE-MARIE MCDERMOTT

Highly acclaimed pianist Anne-Marie McDermott maintains a busy touring schedule which includes appearances this season with the Houston Symphony, the New Jersey Symphony and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, (among other ensembles), and continues her association with violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, and with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, of which she is an Artist Member.

A passionate champion of the music of Prokofiev, she performed the complete cycle of sonatas at the Lincoln Center Festival in July 2003. She also performed the cycle at the University of Arizona, at Chamber Music Northwest in Portland, and at UCLA's Schoenberg Hall. She recorded the complete cycle of sonatas and chamber works for Arabesque Recordings, which released the first three volumes in July 2003. The remaining volumes will be released between 2004 and 2006. In addition, she released a critically praised all-Bach recording on the GMN label.

Following an electrifying last minute appearance with the Atlanta Symphony, substituting for an indisposed Murray Perahia in 1992, Ms. McDermott was invited to make her debut with the New York Philharmonic in 1997 under Christian Thielemann. She has since appeared with the orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Seattle. Other notable engagements have included the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Brandenburg Ensemble at the Kennedy Center, the Moscow Virtuosi with Vladimir Spivakov at Boston's Symphony Hall and New York's Avery Fisher Hall, the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall and a U.S. tour with the Australian Chamber Orchestra. Recital engagements have included New York's 92nd Street Y and Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center and San Francisco's Herbst Theatre. She has participated in such festivals as Mostly Mozart, Ravinia, Aspen, Bravo Vail Valley, Santa Fe, Spoleto, Chamber Music Northwest, Newport, the Dubrovnik Festival in the former Yugoslavia, and the Festival Casals in Puerto Rico.

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TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg** on **Friday, March 4 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$32.00, \$42.00, and \$56.00.** Tickets are 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. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, March 4 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Recital

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, violin
Anne-Marie McDermott, piano

Program:

Mozart/Sonata in B-flat major, K. 454
Poulenc/Sonata for Violin and Piano
Brahms/Sonata No. 3 in D minor, Op. 108

Tickets: \$32.00, \$42.00, and \$56.00, 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.