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**CAL PERFORMANCES COMPOSER PORTRAIT SERIES PRESENTS THE WORK
OF MAGNUS LINDBERG PERFORMED BY THE INTERNATIONAL
CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE IN HERTZ HALL, JANUARY 29, 2006 AT 3:00 P.M.**

BERKELEY, December 28, 2005 – Cal Performances, in collaboration with the Miller Theatre at Columbia University, presents this season’s second Composer Portrait concert, in-depth examinations of the works of composers of the 20th century and beyond. The work of Finnish composer **Magnus Lindberg** is presented **Sunday, January 29 at 3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall. Scored to take advantage of the dizzying array of harmonic effects offered by modern electronics, Lindberg’s music explodes in ways “that are all the more enticing for being so delicate” (*San Francisco Chronicle*). The program includes *Related Rocks* (1997), for electronics, two pianos and percussion, exploring the qualities these disparate instruments share; *Duo Concertante* (1992), for solo clarinet, violoncello and ensemble, a cornucopia of styles; *Linea d’ombra* (1981), for flute, clarinet, guitar, and percussion pulsing with energy and joy; and *Clarinet Quintet* (1992), one of Lindberg’s most acclaimed piece, featuring a traditional string quartet and clarinet, resulting in a piece full of color and life.

Although his music has been called “smiling and playful” by *The New York Times*, it demands virtuosic perfection from its performers, and despite its chilly name the highly regarded **International Contemporary Ensemble** (ICE) warms to the task. A collective of thirty “prodigiously talented,” (*Chicago Tribune*) emerging performers and composers, ICE is dedicated to playing original music to non-traditional audiences – a task for which it was rewarded First Prize in the 2005 Chamber Music America/ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming. A 15-member ensemble of ICE will perform on Sunday, January 29. ICE’s verve and Lindberg’s diverse symphonic styles result in “an unmissable show” (*Gramophone*).

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MAGNUS LINDBERG

Born in 1958, **Magnus Lindberg** studied composition at the Sibelius Academy in his native Finland. Subsequently, Lindberg studied privately with Gérard Grisey and Vinko Globokar in Paris and attended courses given by Franco Donatoni in Siena, Italy and Brian Ferneyhough in Darmstadt, Germany.

Lindberg's early works are marked by experimentation and embrace a wide variety of 20th-century techniques: serialism, spectralism and electronics. In 1985 Lindberg and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen founded Toimii, an ensemble dedicated to experimentation in composition which became a laboratory for developing many of Lindberg's subsequent ideas regarding symphonic work in the digital era. "Music is an output, whether acoustically or electronically produced," Lindberg explains. "What one does in the studio is what one does with an orchestra."

In the '90s Lindberg moved away from "electronically produced" sounds, and spent more time on the harmonic structure of his music, expanding upon his self-proclaimed "strong classical impulse." He did not consider this a seismic shift away from digital experimentation but an organic outgrowth of his approach to music in general, and exhibits his desire to take "very different sound objects" and explore their similarities in order to "re-establish a balance between musical parameters, after having brought these parameters to such extremes over the past few decades."

Critics, judges and audiences appreciate Lindberg's music, in whatever mode he is operating. June 1994 saw the triumphant premiere in Tokyo of a major new orchestral work, *Aura - in memoriam Witold Lutoslawski*. In June 1995 his *Arena* was the test piece for the first International Sibelius Conductor's Competition in Helsinki. That same year he was the featured composer at the Aldeburgh Festival and in 1996 he was Artistic Director of the South Bank Centre's Meltdown Festival. In 1997 he was featured at the Ars Musica Festival in Brussels and the Strasbourg Musica Festival where his two largest works *Kraft* and *Aura* received their French Premieres. He will debut two new pieces next year, a work for the cello and piano for the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival; and a violin concerto that will premiere at the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York City in Fall 2006. Other future projects include new works for the Los

Angeles Philharmonic and the Berlin Philharmonic.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE (ICE)

Conceived on a bus ride to Chicago by Executive Director **Claire Chase**, the **International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE)** is a collective of performers and composers who are dedicated to advancing contemporary music. Through innovative programming, multimedia collaborations, commissions by young composers and performances in nontraditional venues, ICE brings together new music and new audiences in art galleries and clubs, as well as concert halls. Founded in 2001, ICE has rapidly established itself as one of the leading new-music ensembles of its generation, performing over 40 concerts a year in New York, Chicago and abroad. A champion of music by young composers, ICE has given over 200 world premieres to date, and has performed the music of rising composers from 15 different countries. ICE's debut in 2003 at the Miller Theatre of Columbia University featuring music of young Chinese composer Huang Ruo was named by *The New York Times* as "One of the Top Ten Classical Music Moments of the Year." ICE will perform this season at the Miller Theatre, the Merkin Concert Hall, on National Public Radio and in Mexico, Ecuador, Poland, and China. The ensemble will release two commercial CDs in 2006, on the Bridge Records and Naxos Records labels.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **The International Contemporary Ensemble** performing the work of **Magnus Lindberg** on **Sunday, January 29** at **3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$32.00**. 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:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 29 at 3:00 p.m

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

College Ave. at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

20th Century Music & Beyond

Composer Portrait: Magnus Lindberg

International Contemporary Ensemble:

Timothy Weiss, conductor

Program:

Lindberg/*Related Rocks* (1997)

Duo Concertante (1992)

Linea d'ombra (1981)

Clarinet Quintet (1992)

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