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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS SOPRANO DEBORAH VOIGT IN HER ONLY
WEST COAST RECITAL THIS SEASON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20
AT 3:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, October 19, 2005 – “One of the world’s most thrilling voices” (*New York Observer*) and the preeminent dramatic soprano of her generation, **Deborah Voigt** will perform at Zellerbach Hall **Sunday, November 20 at 3:00 p.m.** Voigt will demonstrate her celebrated artistry and vocal gamut in a program ranging from **Richard Strauss** to **Stephen Sondheim**, with a number of works from her new CD *All My Heart: Deborah Voigt Sings American Songs*. Pianist **Brian Zeger**, who is Artistic Director of the Department of Vocal Arts at The Juilliard School, accompanied Voigt on the CD and will do so at Cal Performances.

Each composer and piece on the Berkeley program has special meaning for Voigt. The performance begins with works by **Amy Beach** (1867–1944), widely considered to be the first successful American female composer; **Charles Ives** (1874–1954) whose compositions have a direct, no-nonsense approach that suits Voigt’s recital temperament and presence; and **Ben Moore** (b. 1960) who has had a standing association with Voigt since composing “Wagner Roles” for her, a piece *The New York Times* described as “a brilliant comic song...about the perils of being typecast as a Wagnerian soprano.” After intermission, Voigt will perform works by the eclectic, Pulitzer Prize–winning **William Bolcom** (b. 1938) including two pieces from his lively *Cabaret Songs* series; **Stephen Sondheim** (b. 1930), the prolific Broadway composer known for his witty lyrics and melodies; and **Richard Strauss** (1864–1949), who has been Voigt’s constant companion on the opera stage since she made her debut. Capping off the concert will be two works by **Tchaikovsky** (1840–1893), “Ya li v pole da ne travushka byla?” (“Was I not a little blade of grass?”) and “Den' li tsarit?” (“Does the day reign?”) that highlight Voigt’s impassioned yet respectful musicality.

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DEBORAH VOIGT

Soprano **Deborah Voigt** is widely considered to be the world's reigning soprano in German dramatic opera, but she also maintains an active concert and recital career, and has given attention to works by American composers written for the musical theater, as well. In all of these diverse musical styles and genres she has excelled, drawing both critical acclaim and the adoration of audiences worldwide. Her singing is "blazingly powerful, deeply expressive and as always, musically scrupulous" (*The New York Times*). Voigt's 2005/06 season includes her Berkeley performance, concerts in Europe with the New York Philharmonic, productions of *Tosca*, *La forza del destino*, and *Die Walküre* with the Metropolitan Opera (the latter in a tour to Japan), and a performance at Jazz at Lincoln Center, among others.

Voigt records for EMI Classics, and her second solo recording, *All My Heart: Deborah Voigt Sings American Songs*, with Brian Zeger as her piano partner was released in September 2005. Voigt's first solo CD, *Obsessions* – scenes and arias from operas by Wagner and Strauss – was released in April 2004, and earned superlative reviews: "She sings a stupendous recital by identifying with each passionate, fierce or possessed woman, inhabiting the character fully...Of course Voigt's opulent voice—in waves of glorious, lustrous sound—is perfect in these, her signature roles," said *Opera News*. Voigt's discography also includes complete opera recordings.

BRIAN ZEGER

Brian Zeger has appeared as a pianist in concert venues all over the United States and Europe, and is also a noted ensemble performer, artistic administrator and educator. He devotes considerable attention to the chamber and song repertoire, collaborating with such artists as violinist Itzhak Perlman, flutist James Galway, actress Claire Bloom, and song recitalists Marilyn Horne, Kathleen Battle and Arleen Auger. He was recently named Artistic Director of the Vocal Arts Department at The Juilliard School, where he serves on the faculty of the Collaborative Piano Department. He holds a bachelor's degree in English Literature from Harvard College, a master's degree from The Juilliard School and a doctorate from the Manhattan School of Music. He has studied with Morris Borenstein, Sascha Gorodnitzki, and Nina Svetlanova, among others.

“Voigt’s frequent collaborator, Brian Zeger...shows exceptional sensitivity to this singer’s needs, and he navigated the varying stylistic demands with aplomb. Perhaps most impressive were his accounts of Moore’s songs, in which he located an ingratiating melodic gift; and of Tchaikovsky’s “Was I not a little blade of grass?” in which he joined with the soprano for a delicate yet deeply poignant reading” (*Opera News*). Zeger’s critical essays and other writings have appeared in *Opera News*, *The Yale Review* and *Chamber Music* magazine. He appears frequently on Metropolitan Opera radio broadcasts, both on the opera quiz and as intermission host and performer. His recordings can be heard on the EMI Classics, New World, Naxos, and Koch labels.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Deborah Voigt** in recital on **Sunday, November 20** at **3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$36.00**, **\$48.00** and **\$68.00**. 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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Cal Performances’ 2005/2006 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, November 20 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Recital

Deborah Voigt, soprano

Brian Zeger, piano

Beach/"Ah, Love But a Day"; "I Send My Heart Up to Thee"; "The Year's at the Spring"
Strauss/"Ich trage meine Minne," Op. 32, no. 1; "Nichts," Op. 10, no. 2; "Befreit," Op. 39, no. 4
Tchaikovsky/"Ya li v pole da ne travushka byla?" ("Was I not a little blade of grass?"); "Den' li
tsarit?" ("Does the day reign?")

Ives/"Down East"; "The Side Show"; "The Children's Hour"; "Memories: A. Very Pleasant - B.
Rather Sad"; "The Circus Band"

Moore/"This Heart that Flutters"; "To the Virgins to Make Much of Time"; "I Am in Need of
Music"; "Bright Cap and Streamers"

Bolcom/"Never More Will the Wind"; "Toothbrush Time" and "George," from *Cabaret Songs*
Sondheim/"Losing My Mind," from *Follies*; "I Never Do Anything Twice," from *The Seven
Percent Solution*

Tickets: \$36.00, \$48.00, and \$68.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at
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door.