

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

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**IRISH FIDDLER EXTRAORDINAIRE EILEEN IVERS & IMMIGRANT SOUL
PERFORM WITH SPECIAL GUEST BURHAN ÖÇAL
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10 AT 8:00 P.M. AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, January 10, 2006 – Eileen Ivers, the sensational Irish fiddler who has been called the “Jimi Hendrix of the violin” (*The New York Times*), jams with her band **Immigrant Soul** and special guest Turkish multi-instrumentalist **Burhan Öçal** in an evening entitled *From Ireland to Istanbul* on **Friday, February 10 at 8:00 p.m.** at Zellerbach Hall. Charismatic and preternaturally talented, Ivers has been thrilling crowds with her fiddling since she was eight. Her keen sense of rhythm and wide-ranging musical ear drew her to world music in the late 1990s, and she has been fascinated with it ever since. Along with her band Immigrant Soul, featuring **Tommy McDonnell** (vocals), **Isaac Alderson** (pipes, whistles and flutes), **James Riley** (guitar), and **Gregory Jones** (bass and vocals), Ivers weds traditional Celtic instruments with African and Latin percussion, along with American soul to create an eclectic and electrifying mix that has been touted as “the future of the Celtic fiddle” (*The Washington Post*).

Joining Ivers and her trademark blue violin on stage is Turkish percussion virtuoso **Burhan Öçal**, contributing his unique sound to the mix. Öçal plays traditional Turkish instruments, including the *darbuka* (finger-drum) and *kos* (kettle drum). A master of Turkish and Roma folk music, Öçal has been making waves in the world music community, combining his Middle Eastern roots with Western classical music and jazz. With his fleet fingers that fly over his drums like “hummingbird wings,” Öçal’s playing is always “one thrill of a ride” (*The Washington Post*). The program will be announced from the stage.

EILEEN IVERS

The daughter of Irish immigrants, **Eileen Ivers** grew up in the culturally diverse New York neighborhood of the Bronx. Rooted in traditional Irish music since childhood, Ivers proceeded to win nine All-Ireland Fiddle Championships, a tenth on tenor banjo and over 30

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championship medals, making her one of the most awarded musicians ever to compete in these prestigious competitions.

Being an Irish American, the intrigue of learning more about the multicultural sounds of her childhood took hold. Ivers fully immersed herself in the different genres of music which she experienced growing up in New York, and her passion for seeking parallels in certain traditional music styles contributed to what has become the signature sound featured in many of her recordings since the late 1980s. Ivers has performed with Riverdance, The Chieftains, Hall and Oates, Patti Smith, Paul Cole, and Al Di Meola, as well as the London Symphony Orchestra and the National Symphony at The Kennedy Center. In 2002, she shared the stage with two other celebrated violinists, classical virtuoso Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and jazz great Regina Carter, in the highly praised Boston Pops concert *Fiddlers Three*.

IMMIGRANT SOUL

In 1999, Ivers established a touring production to present her brand of world music, which evolved into Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul. They have headlined major performing arts centers, starred with numerous symphony orchestras, performed at major festivals worldwide and appeared on national and international television.

Bronx, New York, native **Tommy McDonnell**, son of a carpenter and professional actress/singer/dancer, brings a soulful aspect to the multidimensional thrust of Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul. He has appeared as a featured performer in the Universal Pictures' *Blues Brothers 2000* and on television on *The Late Show with David Letterman*, the Super Bowl and *Saturday Night Live*.

Dublin-born guitarist **James Riley** learned music from his father, famed Irish balladeer Kit Riley, and later studied under guitarist Jon Hicks. He performed throughout Europe and the Middle East before immigrating to the United States in 2000. Riley has recorded with Solas members Mick McAuley and Steve Holloway and Cherish the Ladies fiddler Marie Reilly.

Isaac Alderson began playing Irish music while growing up in his native Chicago. Having studied with some of the greatest names in traditional music on both sides of the Atlantic and played with noted musicians such as Jerry O'Sullivan and Benedict Koehler, he has quickly become known as a skilled performer and teacher. Alderson now resides in New York City and is the newest member of Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul.

Hailing from the Boston area and now living in New Jersey, **Gregory Jones** is well known in the jazz and world music circuit. He has recorded and toured with such diverse artists as tap great Savion Glover in *Bring In Da' Noise, Bring In Da' Funk* to pop legend Carly Simon. Jones brings a South African bass style to Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul, which helps to underpin the melodic Irish top line.

BURHAN ÖÇAL

A native of Kirklareli, near Istanbul, **Burhan Öçal** grew up in a musical family. From his father he learned a variety of percussion instruments, while his mother introduced him to religious vocal music. At an early age he was influenced by and began performing Turkish court and folk music, as well as neo-classical Turkish music. After his first contact with Western music, he became interested in combining other genres and cultural traditions, such as jazz and Western classical music, with his own. In addition to his virtuosity on a wide variety of percussion instruments, he is a highly skilled player on a number of stringed instruments, including the *divan-saz*, *tanbur* and *oud*.

Since 1977, Öçal has divided his time between Istanbul and Zurich. He has performed with pianist Maria João Pires, Joe Zawinul, Eliot Fisk, the George Gruntz Concert Jazz Band, and Peter Waters. He also premiered a new work of his own composition with the Kronos Quartet in 2001. Öçal has an extensive discography with several award-winning recordings. His first two CDs with his band Istanbul Oriental Ensemble had the rare distinction of winning two consecutive German Record Critics' Awards. His most recent release, *Kirklareli Il Siniri*, is gaining acclaim throughout Europe and the Middle East.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul** with special guest **Burhan Öçal** on **Friday, February 10 at 8:00 p.m.** at Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$20.00, \$26.00** and **\$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:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, February 10 at 8:00 p.m.

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

World Stage

Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul
with special guest **Burhan Öçal**

Program: Eileen Ivers, the sensational Irish fiddler, jams with her band Immigrant Soul and special guest, Turkish percussionist Burhan Öçal.

Tickets: \$20.00, \$26.00 and \$32.00, 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.

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