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**HESPÉRION XXI AND LA CAPELLA REIAL DE CATALUNYA, LED BY
JORDI SAVALL, ADD A SECOND PROGRAM TO THEIR
MARCH 2006 ENGAGEMENT AT CAL PERFORMANCES**

MARCH 9 ADDED PERFORMANCE MARKS THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF CERVANTES' DON QUIXOTE; MARCH 11 PROGRAM EXPLORES HISPANIC MUSIC IN THE OLD AND NEW WORLDS

KEY NOTES: Professor Kate van Orden, UCB Department of Music, will set the stage historically and socially Thursday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church

SIGHTLINES: Pre-concert talk by Jordi Savall moderated by Professor Kate van Orden Saturday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. at First Congregational Church

BERKELEY, November 17, 2005 – Due to popular demand, the renowned early music ensemble Barcelona-based **Hespérion XXI** and the vocalists of **La Capella Reial de Catalunya** have added a second performance to Cal Performances' Centennial Season in March 2006. Led by viol virtuoso and conductor **Jordi Savall**, the groups will be joined by soprano **Montserrat Figueras** for two distinct programs. On **Thursday, March 9 at 8:00 p.m.** the concert titled *Las Músicas del Quijote* (The Music of Quixote) will examine the many musical references in Miguel de Cervantes' celebrated novel, *Don Quixote*. Conceived and meticulously researched by Savall, the concert will be made up of recitations from the novel as well as instrumental works and vocal music. On **Saturday, March 11 at 8:00 p.m.** the musicians will explore the spread of sacred and secular music from Europe to the New World in a program called *Encuentro de Músicas de Fuego & Ayre de la Iberia antigua al Nuevo Mundo* (Musical Encounters of Fire and Air from Old Spain to the New World).

In conjunction with the newly-added concert, a *Key Notes* talk will be given by UC Professor **Kate van Orden** Wednesday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. to set the stage historically and socially for the Cervantes concert. A *Sightlines* pre-concert talk will be given by Jordi Savall and moderated by Professor Kate van Orden Saturday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. Both talks are free to ticketholders and will be held at First Congregational Church.

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PROGRAMS

On Thursday March 9, the musicians will present a program based on the many musical references in Miguel de Cervantes classic novel, *Don Quixote*. The program will blend three elements: sung dramatic recitations from the novel; instrumental works by composers including Luis del Milán, Juan Vasquez and others; and vocal or choral pieces by Du Bailly, Diego Pisador, Joan Arañés, and others. The works explore “dances and romances – popular forms that had lilt, lift, and above all, narrative to recommend them” (*Ann Arbor News*). Jordi Savall developed the program and chose the texts and music; poet and professor Manel Forcano of the University of Barcelona dramatized the texts. “Each [song] had a folk-like simplicity and immediacy...The singers became troubadours, telling their tales for a rapt audience” said the *Ann Arbor News*.

The Saturday, March 11 program’s title can be translated as “Musical Encounters of Fire and Air from the Old Spain to the New World” and includes secular and sacred music. It will be presented in six sections, each containing a mix of instrumental and choral/instrumental pieces by early music composers including Mateo Flecha, Francisco Correa de Arriaxo, José Marín, and others.

JORDI SAVALL

Recognized worldwide as one of the most important early music scholars and players of our day, **Jordi Savall** has proved over the last 30 years that early music is not an elitist past time but a vibrant art form that can appeal to broad, young audiences. “All music is contemporary if it is played by contemporary musicians,” he has said. “Archeology is just the starting point—to play a melody, you have to create around it a world of music.”

Born in Barcelona in 1941, Savall began training as a cellist at age six and studied at the Conservatorio Superior de Música de Barcelona until 1965. In that same year, he began studying the viol da gamba (also called a viol), which had fallen out of widespread use by the middle of

the 18th century when the more powerful cello came into fashion. He began studying ancient musical scores, often borrowing music from libraries on microfilm to find works for the instrument. He attended the Schola Cantorum Baisiliensis in Switzerland and studied viol with August Wenzinger until 1968, and succeeded Wenzinger as Professor of Viol and Ensemble there. “No one plays this eccentric, eloquent instrument more beautifully than Savall ... Savall has recaptured, as far as anyone can tell, not just the technique but also the artistic spirit of the Renaissance musicians who made the viol the center of their world” (*The New Yorker*).

Savall and his wife and collaborator, soprano Montserrat Figueras, have founded several musical groups dedicated to Hispanic and French music of the Baroque period: Hespérion XX (renamed Hespérion XXI at the turn of the millennium) was created in 1974, and La Capella Reial de Catalunya in 1987. Their children – harpist Arianna Savall and bass lute player Ferran Savall – have played with Hespérion XXI, and Arianna Savall performs with the group on this tour. In 1989, Savall founded Le Concert des Nations, a baroque and classical orchestra composed of young musicians from many European countries playing on period instruments. He leads the group to this day.

Savall created his own record label dedicated to early music, Alia Vox, in 1998. He was named an Officier in the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 1988, awarded the *Creu de Sant Jordi* by the Generalitat de Catalunya (Spain) in 1990, and given the *Medalla de Oro de las Bellas Artes* by the Spanish Culture and Education Ministry in 1998. His performance on the viol was featured in the film *Tous les Matins du Monde* (1991) starring Gérard Depardieu.

MONTSERRAT FIGUERAS

Born in Barcelona to a family of music lovers, **Montserrat Figueras** began studying voice at an early age. She brings to her performances an extensive knowledge of original vocal techniques dating from the age of the Troubadours; knowledge of traditional Catalan, Iberian and

Mediterranean singing; and experience singing Spanish religious polyphony. The alchemy between these three elements leads to a very personal musical interpretation, far from the influence of post-romantic models.

“She ... looks beyond the cold facts of notation to grasp the spirit of the age: her smoky, penetrating, flatly expressive voice falls somewhere between grand opera and rural folk singing, and combines the best aspects of both” (*The New Yorker*). Figueras has made important contributions to modern understanding of medieval and Renaissance music with her recordings of works by Luis Mila, Tarquinio Merula and Alonso Mudarra. In 2003, she released *Ninna Nanna*, a collection of lullabies covering five centuries. *The New York Times* called the recording “cherishable” and “an instant classic.”

HESPÉRION XXI

Jordi Savall, Montserrat Figueras, Lorenzo Alpert (winds and percussion), and Hopkinson Smith (plucked instruments) founded Hespérion XX in 1974 with the aim of studying and interpreting early music and the Hispanic and European repertoire written before 1800. The group is characterized by its eclectic artistic choices, extensive repertoire and deep knowledge of different styles and periods.

While Alpert and Smith no longer perform with the group, Hespérion XXI has been augmented with many other fine musicians for this tour: Jean Pierre Canihac, cornetto (a hybrid instrument with a small trumpet-like mouthpiece and fingerholes like a recorder); Beatrice Delpierre, chalmei (a woodwind instrument); Daniel Lassalle, tenor trombone; Josep Borràs, dulcian (the Renaissance predecessor of the bassoon); Sergei Casademunt, Sophie Watillon and Lorenz Duftschmid, viol da gamba; Xavier Puertas, violone (double bass viol); Xavier Diaz, tiorba i guitarra (lute); Arianna Savall, arpa doppia (Italian baroque triple harp); Michael

Behringer, harpsichord and organ; Pedro Estevan, percussion; and Adela Gonzales-Campa, castanets.

Hespérion XXI's instrumentation expands and contracts as its chosen repertoire demands. The driving idea behind the group, Savall explained to *The New York Times* earlier this year, is to perform early music with modern vitality. "We wanted to go back to the original sources, and to conserve the music with maximum respect, but also, to make it as alive and modern as possible. That's why we used an ancient name—Hespérion is the Greek name for Spain and Italy—but also added XXI, to say that we are musicians from our time, not from ancient times."

LA CAPELLA REIAL DE CATALUNYA

Founded in Barcelona in 1987 by Jordi Savall and Montserrat Figueras, La Capella Reial de Catalunya is composed of solo-caliber singers. The group's aim is to make Catalan historic music and Hispanic music known all over the world. The group maintains an active concert and recording schedule, having performed at important festivals in Catalonia, Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Austria, Canada, the United States, Mexico, Australia, Israel, Japan, the Philippines, and Hong Kong. The group has appeared on dozens of recordings and the soundtracks of the films "Les Batailles," and "Les Prisons."

Members of La Capella Reial de Catalunya are Montserrat Figueras and Adriana Fernandez, soprano; Carlos Mena, countertenor; Lambert Climent and Lluís Vilamajò, tenor; Furio Zanasi, baritone; Daniel Carnovich and Ivan Garcia, bass.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Hespérion XXI** and **La Capella Reial de Catalunya** with **Jordi Savall**, director and viola da gamba, and **Montserrat Figueras**, soprano, on **Thursday, March 9 at 8:00 p.m.** and **Saturday, March 11 at 8:00 p.m.** are priced at \$52. 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:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & PERFORMANCES Hespérion XXI and La Capella Reial de Catalunya with Jordi Savall March 9 – 11

Thursday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m.

KEY NOTES

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

UCB professor Kate van Orden will set the stage historically and socially for the concert. In the casual atmosphere of the Key Notes talk, light refreshments will be served. This event is free to ticketholders.

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Thursday, March 9 at 8:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Music Before 1850

Hespérion XXI

La Capella Reial de Catalunya

Jordi Savall, director and viola da gamba

Montserrat Figueras, soprano

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Program: Jordi Savall leads a concert titled *Las Músicas del Quijote* based on the many musical references in Miguel de Cervantes classic novel, *Don Quixote*, with music and text selections by Savall and additional text selections and dramatization by Manel Forcano.

Tickets: \$52.00, 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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Saturday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.
SIGHTLINES

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Pre-concert talk by Jordi Savall moderated by Professor Kate Van Orden will be given one hour before the performance. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. These events are free to ticketholders.

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Saturday, March 11 at 8:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Music Before 1850

Encuentro de Músicas de Fuego & Ayre de la Iberia antigua al Nuevo Mundo

Hespérion XXI

La Capella Reial de Catalunya

Jordi Savall, director and viola da gamba

Montserrat Figueras, soprano

Program: Jordi Savall leads a concert of secular and sacred music featuring the music of Mateo Flecha, Francisco Correa de Arauxo, José Marín, Luis del Milà, Gaspar Sanz, Antonio Marin y Coll, among others.

Tickets: \$52.00, 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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