

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 21, 2006

**PIANIST KRYSZTIAN ZIMERMAN RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES  
SUNDAY, APRIL 23 AT 3:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**BERKELEY, March 21, 2006** – Cal Performances presents a rare opportunity to hear piano virtuoso **Krzystian Zimerman** as the “elegant and impeccable technician” (*Boston Globe*) returns **Sunday, April 23 at 3:00 p.m.** to Zellerbach Hall. Zimerman’s trademark has become his meticulous performance preparation in his quest for perfection. Remarkably attentive to every detail, Zimerman travels with his own concert piano and tunes the instrument himself, minimizing any distractions from all but purely musical issues. The program for the concert will be announced.

“Always a formidable pianist, Mr. Zimerman at 45 is at an artistic peak ... [working] with as much insight as Schnable, Rudolf Serkin, or any other master Brahms interpreter of the past,” wrote *The New York Times* of Zimerman’s November 2002 Carnegie Hall appearance. “He tore into the music with a rhapsodic fervor that was at once thrilling and terrifying.” Known as one of the most individual and articulate pianists of the present day, Zimerman first attracted notice in 1975 when he became not only the first Pole in 40 years to win the Chopin Competition in Warsaw, but also its youngest winner ever. Since that time, he has steered a determined course as an exacting musician, appearing to tremendous acclaim in the world’s music capitals as a recitalist and a soloist with major orchestras.

Zimerman’s hands-on approach utilizes his piano-building expertise that was first acquired during his early years at the music conservatory in Katowice, Poland. The confidence afforded by his own familiar instrument enables him to focus solely on the score. Treating the piano with the highest respect and using the medium to service his musical creativity, Zimerman is truly a “pianist’s pianist” (*Cleveland Plain Dealer*).

Zimerman has been immersed in music since his childhood in Zabrze, Poland, where his

-MORE-

father—a factory worker by day, a gifted musician by night—held chamber music sessions in the family living room. The young Zimerman made his first steps in music under his father’s supervision, and at the age of seven started working with Andrzej Jasinski, a senior lecturer at the music conservatory in Katowice. After graduating 14 years later, Zimerman followed the common path of musical development for concert pianists, entering prestigious competitions and earning several prizes, culminating in the Grand Prix at the Chopin Competition in 1975, which paved the way for performances in concert halls worldwide.

Having collaborated with a number of the most illustrious conductors of the day including Leonard Bernstein, Herbert von Karajan, Seiji Ozawa, Riccardo Muti, Lorin Maazel, André Previn, Pierre Boulez, and Sir Simon, Zimerman has enriched his knowledge of conducting. He and Bernstein worked together for 13 years and Zimerman was the last—for some time the only—pianist who performed under Bernstein, both during recording sessions and at concerts in many European countries and the United States. With more than two decades of collaboration with Deutsche Grammophon, Zimerman has produced 28 recordings.

Zimmerman insists upon a limited performance schedule to allow time for his family in Switzerland. Creating a balance between work and teaching, Zimmerman divides his time between concerts, performing chamber music, and his teaching position at the Music Academy in Basle.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Krystian Zimerman** on **Sunday, April 23** at **3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$34.00, \$46.00** and **\$58.00**. 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](http://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](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

# # #

Cal Performances' 2005/2006 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

The *Contra Costa Times* and Classical 102.1 KDFC are season media sponsors of the 2005/06 performing arts season.

Cal Performances gratefully acknowledges The Shenson Foundation for its generous support of the 2005/06 Recital Series.

# # #

**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Sunday, April 23 at 3:00 p.m.**

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

*Recital*

**Krystian Zimerman, piano**

**Program:** Famed Polish pianist Krystian Zimerman performs in recital; program to be announced.

**Tickets:** \$34.00, \$46.00 and \$58.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door.

---

-30-