

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 31, 2005

## **TAKÁCS QUARTET RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES FOR TWO CONCERTS**

**GUEST PIANIST GARRICK OHLSSON IS FEATURED SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9  
AT 3:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**AND**

**THE QUARTET CONTINUES THE BEETHOVEN CYCLE BEGUN LAST SEASON  
SUNDAY, MARCH 12 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

**BERKELEY, August 31, 2005** – The **Takács Quartet**, known for seamless performances filled with daring and imagination, sublime skill, and deep empathy, will return to the Bay Area twice this season with new member, former San Francisco Symphony violist **Geraldine Walther**. For the first appearance, on **Sunday, October 9 at 3:00 p.m** in Zellerbach Hall, prize-winning pianist **Garrick Ohlsson** will join the ensemble for **Brahms**'s Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34, a piece that Brahms re-worked a number of times before finally settling on stringed instruments and piano, a piece perfectly tailored for the Takács Quartet and Ohlsson. The concert will also include **Mozart**'s String Quartet No. 19 in C major, K. 465 "*Dissonance*," one of six quartets that prompted Haydn to declare Mozart the finest composer in the world, and **Debussy**'s String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10, the only string quartet Debussy ever composed.

On **Sunday, March 12 at 3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall, the Takács Quartet will continue the Beethoven cycle begun last season at Cal Performances. The ensemble will perform the late quartets including the String Quartet in D major, Op. 18, No. 3; String Quartet in E minor, Op. 59, No. 2 "*Rasumovsky*;" and String Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 127. Beethoven, called "the man who freed music," created this repertoire long after he was deaf. Many music lovers consider Beethoven's late quartets to be unsurpassed to this day. "As played by the Takács," describes the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, "all of the [late] quartets held eruptive and expressive surprises: a furious gesture here, an extraordinary interplay of fragments there ... the Takács found the perfect balance."

-MORE-

## **TAKÁCS QUARTET**

Now entering its 31<sup>st</sup> season, the Takács Quartet has performed repertoire ranging from Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert to Bartók, Britten, Dutilleux, Janáček, and Sheng in virtually every music capital in North America, Europe, Australia, Asia, and Japan. Prestigious festivals that they have performed at include Aspen, Berlin, Cheltenham, City of London, Mostly Mozart, Ravinia, Salzburg, Schleswig Holstein, and Tanglewood. The ensemble, formed in 1975, is well known for its award-winning recordings on the Decca label, including its 2-CD set of Beethoven's three *Rasumovsky* String Quartets, Op. 59 and Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 74, *Harp*, which won the Grammy and Gramophone Awards for Best Chamber Performance in 2002. The Quartet's third and final CD of the late quartets plus Op. 95 and the *Grosse Fugue*, which completes the cycle, was released in January 2005 to ecstatic praise.

Takács Quartet 2005-2006 highlights include a three concert series focusing on Mozart at Carnegie Hall with clarinetist Richard Stoltzman and violist James Dunham; three concerts at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall; performances of the Brahms Piano Quintet in Baltimore, Berkeley, Santa Fe, Pittsburgh, La Jolla, and at Dartmouth and Duke Universities with Garrick Ohlsson; and more than 50 other appearances world-wide, including a return tour to Japan and concerts in Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Boston, Toronto, Chicago, Dallas, Paris, Cologne, Avignon, Rotterdam, Zurich, Geneva, Bilbao, and Amsterdam.

## **GERALDINE WALTHER**

Ms. Walther started playing the violin at age seven but switched to viola when her father unexpectedly brought one home. She discovered a passion for chamber music when she slipped into the New York music scene while studying with Michael Tree, a violist with the Guarneri String Quartet. In 1976, she won the principal viola spot in the San Francisco Symphony and has grown up with the orchestra, becoming a leader. "She looks as if she is in love with the music, and she had a sound to go along with the look: lyrical, at times rushing with emotion, but also precise, confident, virtuosic" (*San Jose Mercury News*).

In 1995, Ms. Walther was selected by Sir Georg Solti as a member of his Musicians of the World for concerts in Geneva to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations. She regularly participates in leading chamber music festivals, including Marlboro, Santa Fe,

Tanglewood, Bridgehampton, and, most recently, the Telluride, Seattle, and Ruby Mountain festivals, Music at Kohl Mansion, Green Music Festival in Sonoma, and the inaugural season of Music@Menlo two summers ago. She has collaborated with such artists as Isaac Stern, Pinchas Zukerman, and Jaime Laredo, and has appeared as a guest artist with the Vermeer, Guarneri, Lindsay, Cypress, and St. Lawrence quartets. In 2001, she joined the Tokyo Quartet on a tour of Spain and Italy. Cal Performances' October 9 concert will be her first Bay Area concert with the Takács Quartet.

### **GARRICK OHLSSON**

A native of White Plains, N.Y. Mr. Ohlsson began his piano studies at the age of eight. When he won the Chopin International Piano Competition in 1970, his career took off and he began to establish himself worldwide as a musician of magisterial interpretive and technical prowess. In addition to being a master of the works of Frédéric Chopin, Mr. Ohlsson commands an enormous repertoire and is noted for his masterly performances of the works of Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert, as well as the Romantic repertoire. His repertoire of 80 concertos is unusually wide and eclectic, ranging from Haydn and Mozart to works of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Mr. Ohlsson is a versatile musician and a consummate chamber pianist who performs regularly with the world's leading chamber groups. Audience response to a recent "ravishing" Garrick Ohlsson encore was described as "something that sounded like primal scream therapy ... he toyed with the rhythm in a manner both free and disciplined; hitherto hidden voices sang from within the textures. The waltz sparkled and swooned, and then it was primal scream time all over again" (*The Boston Globe*). He now makes his home in San Francisco.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Takács Quartet** on **Sunday, October 9** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$30.00, \$40.00** and **\$52.00**; tickets for **March 12** at **3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$42.00**. The March 12 concert is sold-out; additional tickets may be released; check with the ticket office. 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).

# # #

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

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

# # #

**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Sunday, October 9 at 3:00 p.m.**

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

*Chamber Music*  
**Takács Quartet**  
**Garrick Ohlsson, piano**

**Program:**

Mozart/String Quartet No. 19 in C major, K. 465 "*Dissonance*"  
Debussy/String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10  
Brahms/Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34

**Tickets:** \$30.00, \$40.00, and \$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](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door.

# # #

**Sunday, March 12 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

*Chamber Music*  
**Takács Quartet**

**Program:**

Beethoven/String Quartet in D major, Op. 18, No. 3; String Quartet in E minor, Op. 59, No. 2  
"Rasumovsky;" String Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 127

**Tickets:** \$42.00. This concert is sold-out; additional tickets may be released; check with the ticket office. 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.