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**A CHAMBER MUSIC BONANZA COMES TO CAL PERFORMANCES WHEN  
PIANIST YEFIM BRONFMAN, VIOLINIST GIL SHAHAM, AND  
CELLIST TRULS MØRK PLAY SCHUBERT AND TCHAIKOVSKY TOGETHER  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**BERKELEY, September 28, 2006**—Three virtuoso musicians, each of whom garners raves and fills the world's great concert halls on his own, will perform together when pianist **Yefim Bronfman**, violinist **Gil Shaham**, and cellist **Truls Mørk** come to Cal Performances on **Wednesday, November 1 at 8:00 p.m.**, performing in Zellerbach Hall. The trio—praised by the *New York Times* as “fusion ... beyond reproach” —will play **Franz Schubert's** dreamlike and innovative Trio No. 2 in E Flat, and **Pyotr Tchaikovsky's** elegiac Piano Trio in A Minor, “*À la Memoire d'un Grand Artiste*” (“In Memory of a Great Artist”).

Two members of the trio are no strangers to Bay Area audiences: Bronfman is a regular visitor, having played a dual-piano recital with Emanuel Ax at Cal Performances in 2005, and Shaham is also a frequent performer on local stages. (Mørk was last slated to appear in San Francisco in 1995, but canceled due to an injury.) They are also not strangers to one another. Regarding their joint performance at Carnegie Hall in 2002 *The New York Times* wrote, “The three players are all virtuoso soloists in their own right, and they played virtuosically. ... To say that there were three points of view is not to say that these soloists played like soloists; quite the contrary. Rather than emerging with big, prominent playing, they were notably gracious in giving way to one another, playing down solo moments, bringing to the whole a sense of lightness and ease.”

**PROGRAM**

**Franz Schubert's Trio No. 2 in E-flat** was composed in late 1827 to celebrate the engagement of the composer's dear friend, Josef von Spaun. Although it was written just weeks after Schubert's Piano Trio No. 1 in B-flat (D. 898, Op. 99), the two pieces have little in common; while No. 1 has been called passive and lyrical, No. 2 is considered spirited and

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dramatic, not to mention more serious and ambitious. The **Piano Trio in A minor** by **Pyotr Tchaikovsky**—subtitled “*À la Memoire d’un Grand Artiste*” (“In Memory of a Great Artist”)—was probably composed in response to the death of two Russian musical greats, Nikolai Rubinstein (Tchaikovsky’s friend and mentor) and Modest Mussorgsky, in late March of 1881. (Czar Nicholas II of Russia was assassinated in the same month.) In correspondence with his friend and patroness in Paris, Nadezhda von Meck, Tchaikovsky wrote that he initially “had an aversion to this combination of instruments”—piano, violin, and cello—but that eventually he embraced the challenge of “a form that is new and unusual for me.”

### YEFIM BRONFMAN

Pianist **Yefim Bronfman** is renowned for his commanding technique and exceptional lyrical gifts. He was born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (formerly USSR) and immigrated with his family to Israel in 1973 at the age of 15. There he studied with Arie Vardi, head of Tel Aviv University’s Rubin Academy; subsequently, Bronfman trained with Rudolf Firkusny, Leon Fleisher and Rudolf Serkin and at prestigious institutions including The Juilliard School, The Marlboro Festival and the Curtis Institute. He has appeared with many of the world’s finest orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra and the London Philharmonic; performed under many great conductors, including Valery Gergiev, Kurt Masur and Zubin Mehta; and taken the stage at popular summer festivals, including Aspen, Ravinia and Tanglewood. His solo playing has been described as “thrilling—an onslaught of brilliant powerhouse pianism” (*The Washington Post*). As a devoted chamber music performer, he has collaborated with the Emerson, Cleveland, Guarneri and Juilliard quartets and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and played chamber music with Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, Jean-Pierre Rampal and many others.

Bronfman’s recording career is equally illustrious, and includes the complete Prokofiev piano sonatas, all five Prokofiev piano concertos, several Rachmaninoff piano concertos, and a 1997 Grammy Award-winning recording of three Bartók piano concertos with Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Bronfman has also recorded, with Isaac Stern, the Brahms violin sonatas, Mozart sonatas for violin and piano, and Bartók violin sonatas. He and Emanuel Ax released recordings of their famous two-piano recitals in 2004 and 2005. With

Shaham, Mørk and the Tönhalle Orchestra Zurich under David Zinman, Bronfman is currently recording the complete Beethoven concertos for Arte Nova/BMG; the 3rd and 4th piano concertos and the Triple Concerto are complete.

### GIL SHAHAM

Born in Illinois in 1971 and raised in Israel, violinist **Gil Shaham** is equally comfortable playing concertos with famed orchestras, in solo recital, and in small ensembles. As a young person, he studied with Samuel Bernstein of the Rubin Academy and debuted with the Jerusalem Symphony under Alexander Schneider and the Israel Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta in 1981. A year later, he won first prize in Israel's Claremont Competition and became a scholarship student at The Juilliard School, where he has worked with Dorothy DeLay and Hyo Kang. He won the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant in 1990.

On stage, Shaham is thrilling performer. "His playing was bright, clean, and unfailingly brilliant....Shaham's playing was something to behold" (*The Washington Post*). He has toured Europe with the Philadelphia Orchestra under Christoph Eschenbach, and performed with many fine orchestras including the Pittsburgh, Montreal, Chicago and National symphony orchestras, the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and the San Francisco Symphony under Michael Tilson Thomas (both in Davies Hall and Carnegie Hall). As a recitalist, he has played in Paris, Milan, Brussels, Madrid, New York and other cities; when he played the Bruch G minor Violin Concerto in New York in early 2006, *The New York Times* raved, "The sound was enormous and quite pure, filling Avery Fisher Hall. The lines throbbed with vibrato. The range of loud to soft was equally enormous. If you buy into Bruch's grand emotions, this is the way to hear him."

Shaham won a Grammy Award for his 1998 recital album *American Scenes* with André Previn at the piano. Among Shaham's many other recordings are *Schubert for Two* with guitarist Göran Söllscher, a CD of Brahms with Claudio Abbado and the Berlin Philharmonic, and *Devil's Dance*, a disc of showpieces with pianist Jonathan Friedman. Shaham also has his own recording label, Canary Classics, under which he released *The Fauré Album* with pianist Akira Eguchi, featuring the composer's first violin sonata, in 2003

## TRULS MØRK

Norwegian cellist **Truls Mørk** is known for both his fierce intensity and his musical grace. He studied cello first with his father, and then with Frans Helmerson starting at age 17. In 1982, Mørk was the first Scandinavian to garner a prize at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Competition. He has also won prizes at New York's Naumberg Competition in 1986 and the Cassado Cello Competition in Florence in 1983. He also received the 1983 UNESCO Prize at the European Radio-Union competition in Bratislava. His playing wins praise from fans and critics alike: "Truls Mørk plays with an almost perfect cello sound—smooth, rich, and of noble strength and bearing" (*Sydney Morning Herald*, Australia).

In addition to playing the standard cello repertoire with major orchestras, including the London Philharmonic, the Oslo Philharmonic and the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Mørk is a committed performer of contemporary music. In recent years, he performed the world premieres of Krzysztof Penderecki's *Concerto for Three Cellos* with NHK Symphony Orchestra under Charles Dutoit; Hafliði Hallgrímsson's *Cello Concerto* (co-commissioned by the Oslo Philharmonic, the Iceland Symphony and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra); and Matthias Pintscher's concerto with the Orchestra de Paris. As a chamber musician, he has performed around the globe and organized the "Sixty Degrees North" series at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, featuring works by composers from Helsinki, St. Petersburg, Stockholm and Oslo.

As a recording artist, Mørk has played the Shostakovich concertos with the London Philharmonic (a recording that earned a Grammy Award nomination), the Dvořák concerto with the Oslo Philharmonic, and the Britten *Cello Symphony* and Elgar concerto with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Mørk's 2001 recording of Benjamin Britten's *Cello Suites* won a Grammy Award, leading the London *Sunday Times* to declare, "Truls Mørk has quietly emerged as one of the foremost exponents of his instrument today."

## TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Yefim Bronfman, Gil Shaham and Truls Mørk** on **Wednesday, November 1** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$30.00, \$40.00, and \$52.00**. 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).

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## CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

### CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Wednesday, November 1 at 8:00 p.m.**

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

#### *Chamber Music*

**Yefim Bronfman**, piano

**Gil Shaham**, violin

**Truls Mørk**, cello

#### **Program:**

Schubert/Trio No. 2 in E-flat, D. 929 (Op. 100) Allegro; Andante con moto; Scherzo: Allegro moderato; Finale: Allegro moderato

Tchaikovsky/Piano Trio in A minor, Op. 50; Pezzo Elegiaco: Moderato assai—Allegro giusto; Tema con Variazioni: Andante con moto

**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.

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