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**HOLIDAY CHEER AND VIRTUOSITY ARE IN PERFECT HARMONY WHEN
THE CANADIAN BRASS PERFORMS AT CAL PERFORMANCES,
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, October 25, 2006 — The Canadian Brass, a quintet praised for their “creamy consistency that rarely failed to please” (*The New York Times*), comes to Cal Performances on **Tuesday, December 5 at 8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall**, with an eclectic program of Hannukah and Christmas music plus works by **Glen Miller** and **Johann Sebastian Bach**. Now in its 35th season, the group—tuba player **Charles Daellenbach**, trombonist **Eugene Watts**, horn player **Bernhard Scully**, and trumpeters **Josef Burgstaller** and **Jeroen Berwaerts**—has won audiences’ hearts from China to Saudi Arabia to its hometown of Toronto, Ontario, with a trailblazing blend of dazzling playing, laughter and occasional theatrics. With a repertoire that ranges from Baroque classics (the group has a special affinity for Bach), to contemporary pieces (many commissioned by and for the group), to Dixieland, jazz, big band, and pop tunes, the Canadian Brass amazes audiences with its musical breadth, and often delights them with bursts of spontaneous, even outrageous, fun. Although the music never takes a back seat to the spectacle, even the group’s appearance adds to the entertainment value: the musicians have been known to wear sneakers with their formal tuxedos, and always perform on glistening 24-karat gold-plated Yamaha instruments. “This world-renowned brass ensemble brings ... flashes of humor and masterful musicianship,” says CNN.

PROGRAM

The Canadian Brass opens its mixed and spirited concert with Bach’s *Air pour les trompettes*, arranged by Michael Allen. An original composition, *The Golyardes’ Grounde* by Canadian composer Malcolm Forsythe, is followed by Canadian Brass trumpeter Josef Brustaller’s composition titled Concerto in D major based on works by Bach and Vivaldi. Four pieces from Bach’s *Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach*, are arranged by Canadian composer Christopher Dedrick, who is best known for his film and television scores. Festive Christmas and holiday music will follow.

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Three traditional Hannukah works are included: *Sevivon (Spinning Top)*, arranged by New York-based film composer Chris Hajian; *Maoz Tzur (Rock of Ages)*, also arranged by Hajian; and *Dreydel*, arranged by Hajian and Canadian Brass's former trumpet Ronald Romm. Dedrick's *Glenn Miller Songbook*, highlights favorite pieces from the Swing-era clarinetist's work.

A Christmas sing-along features beloved carols and songs including *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* and *Silent Night*. The evening will close with highlights from Georges Bizet's dramatic opera *Carmen*, arranged for the Canadian Brass by trumpeter Fred Mills, who played with the group for more than 20 years.

THE CANADIAN BRASS

The Canadian Brass sprang from modest and highly experimental roots in Toronto in 1970. At the time the brass quintet was not considered to be a serious concert ensemble, but in the decades since that perception has changed—thanks, in no small part, to the Canadian Brass. The available base of works for brass quintet proved limiting to the fledgling group, so it soon set out to create its own musical repertoire by transcribing, arranging and commissioning works. Today, more than 200 pieces owe their existence the Canadian Brass, including transcriptions of classical pieces by Bach, Purcell, Vivaldi, Gabrieli, Pachelbel, Beethoven, and Wagner; arrangements of band and jazz classics by John Philip Sousa, Duke Ellington, and Fats Waller; and new works by contemporary composers including Lukas Foss, Peter Schickele (also known as PDQ Bach), William Bolcom, and Michael Kamen. By 1981, the group's influence was far-reaching; at the time, *Newsweek* said the Canadian Brass “had done more to popularize brass playing than any other group.” Most of the music created for the Canadian Brass is published by Hal Leonard and is now a staple of brass ensembles worldwide.

As its diverse repertoire grew, the Canadian Brass's signature performance style evolved. While the quality of the music was always central to the performance, the players weren't afraid to tickle their listeners' funny bones. They've been known to act out a bullfight when performing their arrangement of pieces from Georges Bizet's *Carmen*, with the tuba taking on the role of the

bull, and to don tutus for their “Tribute to the Ballet.” The Canadian Brass’s deft combination of serious musicality and good-natured humor is emulated by brass ensembles around the world.

The Canadian Brass often give master classes in communities where they perform. Since 2000 they have been quintet-in-residence at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, California, and run an innovative summer brass program at the Eastman School of Music. They also play for visiting heads of state at numerous official Canadian state functions, and have appeared at the Tanglewood, Ravinia, and Mostly Mozart festivals.

Although the group’s membership has evolved in its more than three decades of playing, two charter members remain: tuba player **Charles Daellenbach** and trombonist **Eugene Watts**. Daellenbach comes from a long line of German and Swiss musicians; during his childhood in Wisconsin, his father gave him daily lessons. He graduated from the Eastman School of Music at age 25 with a Ph.D. and headed to the University of Toronto for a teaching post. On the way, he met Gene Watts, who was creating a brass ensemble that would become the Canadian Brass. Daellenbach is known for his warm and commanding tuba sound and for his witty improvised banter with his longtime friend and colleague Watts. He lives in Toronto.

Trombonist Watts had an orchestral career with groups in North Carolina, San Antonio and Milwaukee when he was hand-picked by Seiji Ozawa to be first trombonist for the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. In Toronto he met tuba player Chuck Daellenbach and formed the Canadian Brass. Watts’ early training comes from his youth in Missouri, where he financed his music education by playing with a Dixieland band. He went on to study at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, which recently awarded him an honorary doctorate in music. He now lives in Toronto and practices meditation as well as trombone.

French horn player **Bernhard Scully** took up his instrument at age 11; prior to that he played violin and piano. In high school he studied horn with Kendall Betts of the Minnesota Orchestra and played with the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony and the Minnesota Youth Symphony. He earned a Bachelors degree with honors from Northwestern University and a Masters in horn performance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was a

distinguished Collins Fellow. His teachers have included Hermann Baumann, Douglas Hill, Roland Pandolfi and Gail Williams. Scully is now on the faculty of the annual Kendall Betts Horn Camp in Littleton, New Hampshire. This is his second season with the Canadian Brass.

Since April 2006, the two trumpet spots in the Canadian Brass have been filled by a “Trumpet Dream Team” anchored by **Josef Burgstaller**, who first played with the group in 2001. At the time he was North America’s busiest trumpet soloist, performing more than 50 solo concerts every season. Burgstaller began playing cornet at the age of six and was soloing in Chicago-area jazz clubs by age 12; at 15, he became the youngest professional musician in the Virginia Opera Orchestra. He studied with David Hickman at Arizona State University and in 2003 received that school’s Distinguished Alumnus award. He has played with New York City’s Meridian Arts Ensemble, with which he received the ASCAP Adventurous Programming Award in 2003. He is also a Yamaha Artist, appearing at over 60 conservatories and colleges and playing for more than 7,000 students every season. As a jazz musician he has played at New York clubs The Knitting Factory and CBGB, as well as at Amsterdam’s Bimhuis.

Belgian **Jeroen Berwaerts** will be the second trumpet player for the Canadian Brass’ Berkeley concert. Berwaerts first played with the group in January 2006, when he called his friend Burgstaller for a ticket to a performance of the Canadian Brass in Germany. Instead, Burgstaller asked if he could fill in for a trumpeter who unexpectedly couldn’t perform. “Joe said ... that I wouldn’t need a ticket if I were to simply bring my trumpet and play along,” Berwaerts recalls. As a boy Berwaerts trained with Reinhold Friedrich and distinguished himself at an early age with winning performances at many international competitions. He made his debut as a soloist in 2002 at the Schleswig Holstein Music Festival, and has since soloed with the Belgian Radio and Television Philharmonic Orchestra, the Flemish Radio and Television Orchestra, and the Munich and Berlin Symphony Orchestras. His first solo CD, *In the Limelight*, made with Finnish pianist Maria Olikainen, features trumpet repertoire of the Romantic era. Along with classical music, Berwaerts has studied contemporary music and jazz, and has appeared both as a jazz trumpeter and singer. He also serves as guest professor at the Conservatory of Music and Performing Arts in Antwerp, Belgium.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Canadian Brass** on **Tuesday, December 5** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$24.00, \$36.00** and **\$48.00**. 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

Tuesday, December 5 at 8:00 p.m.

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

World Stage

Canadian Brass

Charles Daellenbach, tuba

Eugene Watts, trombone

Bernhard Scully, horn

Josef Bergstaller, trumpet

Jeroen Berwaerts, trumpet

Program:

Bach, arr. Allen/*Air pour les trompettes*

Forsythe/*The Golyardes' Grounde*

Bach & Vivaldi, arr. Brugstaller/*Concerto in D major*

Bach, arr. Dedrick/*Four Pieces from the Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach*

Various/*Selections of Christmas Music*

Traditional, arr. Hajian & Romm/*Three Selections of Hannukah Music*

Miller, arr. Dedrick/*Glen Miller Songbook*

Traditional/*Christmas Sing-Along*

Bizet, arr. Mills/*Highlights from Carmen*

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