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**JAZZ GREATS CHICK COREA AND GARY BURTON
REUNITE FOR A 35TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, January 12, 2007—The groundbreaking album *Crystal Silence* brought together legendary jazz pianist and composer **Chick Corea** and vibraphonist extraordinaire **Gary Burton** in 1972. After 35 years, the duo comes to Cal Performances for an unforgettable concert **Saturday, February 17 at 8:00 p.m.** on the Zellerbach Hall stage. “Cool, contemplative [and] scrupulously engineered” (*The Oregonian*), the Grammy Award-winning record brought recognition to today’s two towering jazz figures on their musical aesthetics and talents. Over time, through periodic musical collaborations and five additional albums, Corea and Burton have developed a compatibility of communication and technique that allows them to complement and support one another in their music. With Corea’s Spanish-influenced contemporary jazz—a successful blend of Afro-Cuban jazz, bossa nova and salsa—and Burton’s rock-n-roll twist, this playful and collaborative concert will revisit songs from the musicians’ classic repertoire as well as new improvisational works to be announced from stage.

CHICK COREA

Returning to Cal Performances after his successfully received concert last year, pianist **Chick Corea** has been making music all his life. Born Armando Anthony Corea, he got his start accompanying his dad, one of Boston’s hottest jazz band leaders. After high school, Corea moved to New York to study at The Juilliard School, but immediately got caught up playing in the New York jazz scene. Early stints with Sarah Vaughan, Willie Bobo and Mongo Santamaria gave Corea plenty of exposure to Latin music and Afro-Cuban rhythms. Before long, he was a sought-after sideman. In 1968, he replaced Herbie Hancock in Miles Davis’s band. At the time, Davis was conceiving a new electric sound and insisted Corea plug in and use an electric keyboard. At first reluctant to play what he thought was an inferior instrument, Corea soon discovered it had wonderful possibilities. After playing on such seminal albums as *In A Silent Way* and *Bitches Brew*, Corea became one of the electric keyboard’s most visible proponents and a pioneer on other keyboard instruments of the 1970s. He formed a new group, Return to

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Forever, and turned up the volume with compositions that were complex, dynamic, electric mini-symphonies, thrilling audiences worldwide with their mind-blowing articulation and dexterity. A short time later, he began incorporating strings, horns and even vocals into Return to Forever and subsequent groups.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Corea effortlessly shifted back and forth from acoustic to electric settings, always surprising his fans with something new, including an original piano concerto. He never stays in one place very long, constantly searching for fresh sounds and taking on new challenges. With 12 Grammy Awards to his credit, he still shows no signs of slowing. Corea, now in his mid-60s, seems more prolific than ever with the release of *Rhumba Flamenco: Live in Europe* based on his 2004 tour, and his CD, *The Ultimate Adventure*. Inspired by L. Ron Hubbard's romantic novel, *The Ultimate Adventure* is an exotic blend of passionate flamenco melodies, North African and Middle Eastern grooves and adventurous improvisation from Corea.

GARY BURTON

Making his Cal Performances debut, born and raised in Indiana, vibraphonist **Gary Burton** is self taught and made his recording debut in Nashville, Tennessee with guitarists Hank Garland and Chet Atkins at age 17. Borrowing rhythms and sonorities from rock music, while maintaining jazz's emphasis on improvisation, Burton formed his own quartet in 1967 and attracted large audiences from both sides of the jazz/rock spectrum. Such albums as *Duster* and *Lofty Fake Anagram* established Burton and his band as progenitors of the jazz fusion phenomenon and in 1968, *Down Beat* magazine awarded Burton with its Jazzman of the Year award. His 1971 album *Alone at Last*, a solo vibraphone concert recorded at the 1971 Montreux Jazz Festival, was honored with a Grammy Award. Around this time, Burton also began turning to the rarely heard duo format, recording with bassist Steve Swallow, guitarist Ralph Towner, and most notably with pianist Chick Corea, thus cementing a long personal and professional relationship that has garnered an additional two Grammy Awards, including their duet album *Crystal Silence*.

Recording for Concord Records, Burton released two Grammy Award-winning records consecutively, *Native Sense*, another duet collaboration with Chick Corea in 1997, and *Like*

Minds, an all-star cast featuring his frequent collaborators Chick Corea, Pat Metheny, Roy Haynes and Dave Holland the following year. His latest release, *Next Generation*, in 2005 was titled for his namesake band and has “already demonstrated keen intuition” (*All About Jazz*) on Burton’s part.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Chick Corea with Gary Burton on Saturday, February 17 at 8:00 p.m.** 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.calperformances.net; 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.calperformances.net.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, February 17 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Jazz

Chick Corea, piano

Gary Burton, vibraphone

Program: Celebrating the 35th anniversary of their groundbreaking album *Crystal Silence*, jazz musician and composer Chick Corea shares the stage with vibraphonist extraordinaire Gary Burton.

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