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**FROM THE BRITISH ISLES TO APPALACHIA, HIGHLAND, HEATH & HOLLER  
CELEBRATES A CULTURAL JOURNEY OF STRINGS  
SUNDAY, APRIL 1 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**BERKELEY, February 23, 2007**—The rich folk music of southern Appalachia has its roots in the ballads, reels and rowdy Celtic tunes brought over by early immigrants from Scotland and Ireland. This musical evolution will be celebrated when **Highland, Heath & Holler** comes to Cal Performances in an evening entitled *Celtic Music's Journey to Appalachia* on **Sunday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m.** at **Zellerbach Hall**. The troupe consists of five exceptional artists from three countries: master fiddler **Alasdair Fraser** and gifted young cellist **Natalie Haas** from Scotland; representing Ireland, the extraordinary musical partnership of fiddler **Martin Hayes** and guitarist **Dennis Cahill**; and American **Bruce Molsky**, who has been called “the Rembrandt of Appalachian fiddling.” Together, the quintet explores its combined musical heritage while creating a unique artistic world view. The program will be announced from the stage; the event is co-presented by Cal Performances and Freight & Salvage Coffee House.

**HIGHLAND, HEATH & HOLLER**

**Alasdair Fraser** has long been regarded as the most important fiddler in traditional Scottish music, as well as a charming and eloquent master ambassador. His performances are colorful explosions of passion, wit and rhythm, and his recordings include the *Legacy of the Scottish Fiddle* series of CDs. His film credits include feature performances on soundtracks of several major films, including *Titanic*, *The Last of the Mohicans* and Disney's *Treasure Planet*. Several of his tunes are now standard in the repertoire for Scottish, Irish and contra dancing music. In 2004, he was awarded The Scottish Heritage Center Service Award for “outstanding contributions to the preservation and perpetuation of Scottish history, culture, and traditions.” *Scots Magazine* says, “Alasdair Fraser is recognized throughout the world as one of the finest fiddle players Scotland has ever produced. [His] name is synonymous with the vibrant cultural renaissance which is transforming the Scottish musical scene.”

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**Natalie Haas** is a Juilliard-trained cellist who began performing with Fraser at the age of 11 at his Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School. Since then, she has gone on to perform and teach internationally, including with Mark O'Connor's Appalachian Waltz Trio. Together Fraser and Haas recorded the CD *Fire and Grace*, which was awarded the 2004 Scots Traditional Album of the Year. *The Scotsman* says, "Haas can switch...from a gentle singing tone to driving, dancing melody—all played with that combination of driving bow work and musical sensitivity that we have come to expect from Fraser. A positive joy."

A native of East County Clare, fiddler **Martin Hayes** has won virtually every award granted an Irish musician, including the All-Ireland fiddle championship six times, BBC Radio's Folk Instrumentalist of the Year. Additionally the American Irish Historical Society named him "Man of the Year" in 1999, and he was cited by the *Irish Sunday Tribune* as one of the 100 most influential Irish people in the fields of entertainment, politics, and sports. His recordings include *Under the Moon* and *Martin Hayes*. The *Los Angeles Times* credits Hayes with "one of the most ravishing violin styles in all of Celtic music."

**Dennis Cahill** is American, born to parents from County Kerry, Ireland. As versed in classical, blues and rock as he is in traditional folk music, he studied at the prestigious Chicago Music College. He has developed an innovative accompaniment style that has been acknowledged as a major breakthrough for guitar in the Irish tradition and has performed with such renowned fiddlers as Liz Carroll, Eileen Ivers, and Kevin Burke, among others. With Martin Hayes he has recorded two CDs: *The Lonesome Touch* and *Live in Seattle*. The musical rapport between the two musicians is so strong that it is often said they work "on a seemingly telepathic level," as if they were playing a single instrument.

One of the most influential fiddlers of his generation, Bronx-born **Bruce Molsky** is also an accomplished guitarist, banjoist and singer. His international tours have included performances at Lincoln and Kennedy Centers and The Smithsonian Folklife Festival. He has performed with such other fiddlers as Natalie MacMaster, Mike Seeger, and Bill Frisell, as well as with his band, Fiddlers 4. His recordings include *Contented Must Be*, the Grammy-nominated

*Fiddlers 4*, and *Mozaik*. “Bruce Molsky is surely the best Old-Time fiddler alive today,” says *Trad Magazine*.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Highland, Heath & Holler: Celtic Music’s Journey to Appalachia** on **Sunday, April 1** in **Zellerbach Hall** at **7:00 p.m.** are priced at **\$20.00, \$26.00** and **\$32.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.net](http://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](http://www.calperformances.net).

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### CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

#### CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Sunday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

*World Stage*

**Highland, Heath & Holler: Celtic Music’s Voyage to Appalacia**

**Alasdair Fraser**, fiddle

**Natalie Haas**, cello

**Martin Hayes**, fiddle

**Dennis Cahill**, guitar

**Bruce Molsky**, fiddle, banjo and guitar

**Program:** An evening of stringed music combining the cultural heritage of Scotland, Ireland and Appalachia.

**Tickets: \$20.00, \$26.00** and **\$32.00**, 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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