SOPRANO VIKTORIA YASTREBOVA REPLACES EKATERINA SEMENCHUK WHEN THE RISING STARS OF ST. PETERSBURG’S MARIINSKY ACADEMY PERFORM WITH PIANIST LARISSA GERGIEVA SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL

BERKELEY, October 27, 2006 – Soprano Viktoria Yastrebova will replace mezzo-soprano Ekaterina Semenchuk when Russia’s Mariinsky Academy of Young Singers in St. Petersburg returns to Cal Performances Sunday, November 5 at 3:00 p.m. at Hertz Hall, as part of Cal Performances’ 06/07 Season Recital Series. Semenchuk has withdrawn from the tour due to personal reasons. Artistic director and pianist Larissa Gergieva, known for her ability to recognize and nurture artists on the cusp of international performance careers, will accompany Yastrebov and bass Alexei Markov in a program of duets and solos to be announced from stage.

VIKTORIA YASTREBOVA

Viktoria Yastrebova was born in Rostov-on-Don and graduated from the musical faculty Taganrog Pedagogical Institute and subsequently from the Rostov-on-Don Conservatory. She was a soloist with the Rostov Music Theater, where she performed the roles of Violetta (La traviata) and Cio-Cio-San (Madama Butterfly).

Yastrebova has been a soloist with the Mariinsky Academy of Young Singers since 2002 where she has performed the roles of Maria (Mazeppa), Polina (The Enchantress), Iolanta (Iolanta), Kupava (The Snow Maiden), Tsaritsa Militrisa (The Tale of Tsar Saltan), Violetta (La traviata), Lauretta (Gianni Schicchi), Micaëla (Carmen) and the Countess (Le nozze di Figaro). In 2004, she was a prize-winner at the International Moniuszko Vocalists’ Competition in Warsaw and the VI International Rimsky-Korsakov Young Opera Singers’ Competition in St Petersburg. Yastrebova has participated in many of the Young Artists concerts at the Mariinsky Academy.

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TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the Artists of the Mariinsky Academy: Viktoria Yastrebova and Alexei Markov with pianist Larissa Gergieva on Sunday, November 5 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall are priced at $42.00. 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

Sunday, November 5 at 3:00 p.m.                        Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

Recital

Artists of the Mariinsky Academy
Viktoria Yastrebova, soprano
Alexei Markov, bass
Larissa Gergieva, piano

Program: Soprano Viktoria Yastrebova and bass Alexei Markov will perform accompanied by pianist Larissa Gergieva in a program of solos and duets to be announced from the stage.

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