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**TWO ICONS OF CONTEMPORARY JAZZ TAKE THE STAGE TOGETHER
WHEN PAT METHENY AND BRAD MEHLDAU PERFORM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, February 16, 2007—In what has been called “an inevitable pairing,” American jazz guitarist **Pat Metheny** and pianist **Brad Mehldau** come to Cal Performances **Wednesday, March 28, at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall**. The duo recently completed a second CD together, *Quartet*, after its first collaboration, *Metheny/Mehldau*, was released to critical acclaim in 2006. The result is a remarkable chemistry in which the two prodigious instrumentalists and composers demonstrate “a reverence for tradition but also a willingness to challenge convention” (*All About Jazz*). Resisting stereotypes of genre and style, Metheny’s mastery of technique and improvisation is methodically rich while being harmonically advanced. The guitarist has won no fewer than 17 Grammy Awards across more categories than any musician in history, including the 2006 award for Best Contemporary Jazz Album. Mehldau is considered to be among the most innovative and versatile young pianists on the jazz scene today. First and foremost an improviser, he has quickly emerged as a major contemporary force in a line that stretches back through Keith Jarrett, Thelonious Monk, and a bevy of classical composers. Rounding out the quartet is bass guitarist **Larry Grenadier** and drummer **Jeff Ballard**, who also performed on *Metheny/Mehldau* and *Quartet*. The program will include works from the two CDs.

PAT METHENY

Born into a musical family in Kansas City, Missouri, **Pat Metheny** began by studying the trumpet but by the age of 12 had switched to guitar. By 15, he was working regularly with the best jazz musicians in Kansas City, and burst onto the international jazz scene in 1974. His trademark playing style blended the loose articulation customarily reserved for horn players with an advanced rhythmic and harmonic sensibility. His combination of playing and improvising was conceptually modern but grounded deeply in the jazz tradition of melody, swing and the blues. Over the years, he has performed with artists as diverse as Ornette Coleman and Herbie Hancock to Milton Nascimento and David Bowie. He has co-composed with keyboardist Lyle Mays for

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more than 20 years, a celebration that has been compared to the Lennon/McCartney and Ellington/Strayhorn partnerships. Throughout his career, Metheny has continued to re-define the genre by utilizing new technology and exploring the improvisational and sonic potential of the guitar. As one of the first jazz musicians to treat the synthesizer as a serious musical instrument, he has been a true pioneer in the realm of electronic music. Years before the invention of MIDI technology, he was using the Synclavier as a composing tool and has been instrumental in the development of several new kinds of guitars. Averaging between 120 and 240 concerts a year, Metheny continues to be one of the brightest stars of the jazz community, while nurturing both his own projects and those of seasoned veterans and emerging artists.

BRAD MEHLDAU

Brad Mehldau was born in 1970 and began performing extensively around the world in the early 1990s. Since 1995, he has worked primarily with bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Jorge Rossy, and the trio has released a series of five records on the Warner Brothers label entitled *The Art of the Trio*. Mehldau has also cut a number of other albums, as a soloist and with other musicians, composed mainly of original material. The dichotomy of Mehldau's personality—the improviser and the formalist—create a sense of controlled chaos. As an improviser, he values the wonder that can occur from a spontaneous musical idea that is expressed directly, in real time. But he also honors the formal architecture of music, which informs everything he plays. As he performs, Mehldau listens to how the ideas unwind, and the order in which they reveal themselves, creating a strong narrative arch. In addition to playing and recording solo as well as with his trio, he has collaborated with a variety of jazz greats, including Joshua Redman, Charlie Haden, Lee Konita, Wayne Shorter, John Scofield and Charles Lloyd. His work has appeared on several recordings outside of the jazz idiom, such as Willie Nelson's *Teatro* and Joe Henry's *Scar*, and his music has been heard in several films, including Stanley Kubrick's *Eyes Wide Shut* and Wim Wenders's *Million Dollar Hotel*. Another project, commissioned by Carnegie Hall for voice and piano, was performed in 2005 with the great classical soprano, Renée Fleming. Saxophonist Redman echoes the sentiments of many in the jazz world when he says, "Brad is one of the greatest jazz musicians who has ever played – not just in our generation, but for all time. He's a genius."

BAND

Joining Metheny and Mehldau on stage are Larry Grenadier and Jeff Ballard. Born in San Francisco in the 1960s, **Larry Grenadier** began playing bass when he was 11 and as a teenager appeared with such greats as Joe Henderson, Stan Getz, Bobby Hutcherson, and others. He graduated from Stanford University in 1989 with a degree in English literature. In the 1990s, he moved to Boston and then New York City where he played with the bands of Gary Burton, Betty Carter, Joshua Redman, Danilo Perez, David Sanchez, Tom Harrell, Joe Henderson, John Scofield, Pat Metheny and Brad Mehldau as well as recording dozens of albums. Grenadier is a member of the collective trio Fly, along with Jeff Ballard and Mark Turner; he has been performing with Mehldau since 1995.

Drummer **Jeff Ballard** grew up in Santa Cruz, California. At the age of 25, he began playing with Ray Charles, then moved to New York City to find other like-minded musicians who were searching for a perfect balance between tradition and improvisation. He found them – Kurt Rosenwinkel, Mark Turner, Eddie Harris, Guillermo Klein and Larry Grenadier, among many others. He joined Chick Corea in 1999; he has been playing with Brad Mehldau since 2005.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Pat Metheny** and **Brad Mehldau** with Larry Grenadier and Jeff Ballard on **Wednesday, March 28** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$30.00, \$42.00** and **\$58.00**. 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

Wednesday, March 28 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Jazz

Pat Metheny, guitar

Brad Mehldau, piano

Larry Grenadier, bass guitar

Jeff Ballard, drums

Program: Two leading modern jazz musicians, Pat Metheny and Brad Mehldau, with Larry Grenadier and Jeff Ballard, will perform selections from their newest CD *Quartet*.

Tickets: \$30.00, \$42.00, and \$58.00, 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.
