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**PIANIST CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR PERFORMS  
OLIVIER MESSIAEN'S *VINGT REGARDS SUR L'ENFANT-JÉSUS*  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 27 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

**TWO FREE PUBLIC EVENTS ARE ALSO PRESENTED: PAUL FESTA'S AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY ON MESSIAEN'S WORK WILL BE SHOWN ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 25 AT 7:00 P.M.; AND A TALK WITH TAYLOR, DAVID BENSON, AUTHOR OF *MUSIC: A MATHEMATICAL OFFERING*, AND ROBERT OSSERMAN OF THE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 26 AT 4:00 P.M.**

**BERKELEY, December 17, 2007**—"One of the most impressive young pianists on the horizon today" (*The Washington Post*), **Christopher Taylor** returns to Cal Performances with his tour de force performance of **Olivier Messiaen's *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus*** on **Sunday, January 27 at 3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall, part of the 20th Century and Beyond series. Taylor is a pianist equally comfortable with both classical and contemporary, bringing his intensity and artistry to the works of masters ranging from Bach and Beethoven to Boulez and Bolcom. Taylor plays with "a huge sound, infectious zest, and a real sense of music-drama" (*The Boston Globe*). A titan of contemporary music, Messiaen's score represents some of the most demanding and complex piano music ever written and—in a display of rare ability—Taylor will perform the 176-page piece entirely from memory.

Two events will be offered in conjunction with Taylor's concert. A documentary by **Paul Festa** titled *Apparition of the Eternal Church* will be shown on Friday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m. at Wheeler Auditorium. The film shows listeners' reactions to the work of Messiaen and features a diverse cast that includes Ron Gallman of the SF Symphony; composers Richard Felciano and Ricky Ian Gordon; and Daniel Handler, aka "Lemony Snicket," among others. Winner of the 2006 Best North American Independent Feature Film Indianapolis International Film Festival and 2006 Gold Medal for Excellence, Park City Film Music Festival, this film has been called "mesmerizing" (*The New Yorker*) and "a genuinely sublime documentary...an orgy of the imagination" (*The Reeler*). The filmmaker and several subjects will hold a discussion with the audience following the screening.

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On Saturday, January 26 at 4:00 p.m. at Simons Auditorium in Chern Hall, UC Berkeley campus, Taylor, who has a mathematics degree from Harvard University, will talk with **David Benson**, author of *Music: A Mathematical Offering* and **Robert Osserman**, Special Projects Director, MSRI. For further information, contact [www.msri.org](http://www.msri.org).

Taylor's concert and the two community events are presented in cooperation with the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute.

### **CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR**

In recent years **Christopher Taylor** has emerged as one of the nation's foremost musicians. Under the tutelage of Russell Sherman, Maria Curcio Diamand, Francisco Aybar and Julie Bees, Taylor built a promising young career. He took first prize in the William Kapell International Piano Competition, and was one of the first recipients of the Irving Gilmore Young Artists' Award. Taylor rose to new levels of prominence when he won the Bronze Medal in the 1993 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, becoming the first American to receive such high recognition in 12 years. Additionally, Taylor received the Avery Fisher Career Grant in 1996, and was named an American Pianists' Association Fellow for 2000.

Taylor has performed concerts around the globe, appearing throughout Europe as well as in Korea, the Philippines and the Caribbean. In the United States, he has appeared with many major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic and Boston Pops as well as touring with the Polish Chamber Philharmonic. Taylor has performed as a soloist at the Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and numerous other venues. Recent projects include performances and lectures on the complete etudes of György Ligeti—which the *San Francisco Chronicle* described as “a magnificent, Herculean undertaking”—and a performance of the Bach *Goldberg Variations* on the unique double-manual Steinway piano in the University of Wisconsin collection.

Taylor is currently Paul Collins Associate Professor of Piano Performance at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. In addition to his music, Taylor has a variety of other interests including linguistics, computing, philosophy and mathematics, in which field he

received a *summa cum laude* degree from Harvard University in 1992. Taylor lives in Middleton, Wisconsin, with his wife, musicologist Denise Pilmer Taylor, and two daughters.

### **OLIVIER MESSIAEN**

**Olivier Messiaen** is one of the most influential composers of the 20th century. His music redefined the avant-garde yet is often tonal, accessible and beautiful. Born in France in 1908, Messiaen began composing at age seven and taught himself how to play the piano. At age 11, he entered the Paris Conservatoire where he learned from Paul Dukas and Marcel Dupre, among others. In 1931, Messiaen was appointed organist at the church of La Trinité in Paris; he held this post until his death in 1992. Messiaen was incarcerated as a prisoner of war by the Germans in 1940, during this time he continued his work as a composer. Messiaen's *Quatuor pour la fin du temps* was first performed by Messiaen and fellow prisoners to an audience of inmates and prison guards. Following his release, Messiaen was appointed professor of harmony at the Paris Conservatoire in 1941, and professor of composition in 1966. He held both positions until his retirement in 1978.

Early in his career it became clear that Messiaen would stand as a unique composer in the history of music. Messiaen ascribed to no particular 'school' or established style, but instead formed and created his own individual musical voice. Messiaen's music is rhythmically complex; he drew on ideas from ancient Greek and Indian sources as well as his experience as an ornithologist in his composition, adapting the songs of birds from around the world. Many of his compositions depict what he termed "the marvelous aspects of the faith", drawing on his unshakeable Roman Catholicism.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Christopher Taylor** in recital on **Sunday, January 27** in **Hertz Hall** are priced at **\$34.00**. 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, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special

Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org).

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person, and all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. For more information call 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances 2007/08 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Friday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**DOCUMENTARY FILM**

**Wheeler Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave, Berkeley

A documentary by **Paul Festa** titled *Apparition of the Eternal Church* shows listeners' reactions to the work of composer Olivier Messiaen. It features a diverse cast that includes Ron Gallman of the SF Symphony; composers Richard Felciano and Ricky Ian Gordon; and Daniel Handler, aka "Lemony Snicket," among others. This event is free and open to the public.

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**Saturday, January 26 at 4:00 p.m.**  
**A CONVERSATION**

**Chern Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Grizzly Peak & Centennial Way, Berkeley

Christopher Taylor will talk with David Benson, author of *Music: A Mathematical Offering* and Robert Osserman, Special Projects Director, MSRI. For further information, contact [www.msri.org](http://www.msri.org). The event is free and open to the public.

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**Sunday, January 27 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at College Ave, Berkeley

*20th Century Music & Beyond*  
**Olivier Messiaen's**  
*Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus*  
**Christopher Taylor**, piano

**Program:** Messiaen/*Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus*

**Tickets: \$34.00**, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

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