

CONTACT:
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu
Joe Yang 510.642.9121
scyang@calperfs.berkeley.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 18, 2007
UPDATED: May 15, 2008

**KDFC RADIO FAVORITE FROM THE TOP STARRING
PIANIST CHRISTOPHER O'RILEY AND THE BEST YOUNG MUSICIANS
IN THE COUNTRY COMES TO ZELLERBACH HALL
THURSDAY, MAY 29 AT 8:00 P.M.**

**THE BAY AREA TAPING INCLUDES TWO LOCAL MUSICIANS
AND THE SAN FRANCISCO GIRLS CHORUS**

BERKELEY, May 15, 2008—Cal Performances and Classical 102.1 KDFC present the popular weekly music program *From the Top*, **Thursday, May 29 at 8:00 p.m.** at Zellerbach Hall. The show features pianist and host **Christopher O'Riley** talking and performing with the next generation of talented young musicians. Together, with humor and a lack of pretension, they demonstrate to audiences around the country that classical music is for everyone, not just the privileged few. Local talents are included in the Berkeley program—12-year-old pianist **Hilda Huang** (Palo Alto) performs selections from Bach's *The Art of Fugue*, 17-year-old composer **Preben Antonsen** (Berkeley) presents an original composition and the **San Francisco Girls Chorus** sings two selections under the direction of **Dr. Susan McMane**. "It's classy reality programming," says NBC's *Today Show*.

The program, to be taped live in front of an audience at Zellerbach Hall, will be broadcast nationally on more than 250 stations at a date to be announced. Locally, the program can be heard on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. on 102.1 FM KDFC. Distributed by NPR, the radio program reaches 750,000 listeners each week and showcases pre-college age soloists and ensembles. In addition to O'Riley, the program also features announcer **Joanne Robinson** and a young "roving reporter" 16-year-old violinist **Caeli Smith**. Additionally, five musicians from across North America will also perform at Zellerbach Hall, including 18-year-old bassoonist **Brigid Babbish** (Bloomfield Hills, MI) and the four members of the **Viaggio String Quartet** which includes 16-year-old violinist **Anthony Bracewell** (Ontario, Canada); 17-year-old violinist **Eric Gratz**

-MORE-

(Shaker Heights, OH); 17-year-old violist **Stephanie Price** (Worthington, OH); and 16-year-old cellist **Ken Kubota** (Troy, MI).

From the Top, a non-profit organization, provides a platform for young artists to present themselves, share their passion and develop into inspirational peer role models. In addition to the radio program, the organization produces television, web and education programs and brings young performers to schools and community centers. *From the Top* web-based audio and video archives form the basis of lesson plans distributed every week to over 100,000 teachers.

CHRISTOPHER O'RILEY

From his groundbreaking transcriptions of Radiohead to his unforgettable interpretations of classic and new repertoire, pianist **Christopher O'Riley** has redefined the possibilities of classical music. "Basically I play what I like to play, and sometimes that involves the great pieces of the classical repertoire. Just extending the boundaries is a lost cause...you should play what you believe in." He has taken his unique vision to both traditional classical music venues and symphonic settings, as well as to entirely new audiences on the radio, at universities and even in night-clubs. An interpreter and arranger of some of the most important contemporary rock music of our time, O'Riley lives by the Duke Ellington adage; "There are only two kinds of music: good music and bad." As a classical pianist, O'Riley has toured and appeared with the world-famous Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Minnesota Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Symphony.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for *From the Top* on **Thursday May 29 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$20.00, \$30.00 and \$40.00**; tickets for children 16 and under are half price. 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, 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.net.

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; 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. Information is available at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

#

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

Classical 102.1 KDFC is our 2007/08 season media sponsors.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday, May 29 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Strictly Speaking

NPR's *From the Top*

Christopher O'Riley, host

Hilda Huang, piano

Preb Antonsen, composer

San Francisco Girls Chorus

Program: *From the Top* is a weekly classical music program showcasing young musicians from across the country; it comes to Cal Performances for a live taping. Locally, the program can be heard on KDFC 102.1.

Tickets: \$20.00, \$30.00 and \$40.00; tickets for children 16 and under are half price. Tickets 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.

- Cal Performances -