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**A MODERN VIRTUOSO:
ISRAELI-AMERICAN VIOLINIST GIL SHAHAM BRINGS HIS
EXPRESSIVE STYLE TO CAL PERFORMANCES SUNDAY, JANUARY 20**

BERKELEY, December 14, 2007—Recognized worldwide as one of the most engaging and technically proficient classical artists, violinist **Gil Shaham** will perform at UC Berkeley's **Zellerbach Hall** on **Sunday, January 20, 2008, at 3 p.m.** Since his debut in 1989, Shaham's dazzling career has been forged on the most prestigious concert stages and at festivals around the world. Accompanied by **Akira Eguchi** on piano, Shaham will perform six pieces by **William Walton, Johann Sebastian Bach, Joaquin Rodrigo** and **Pablo de Sarasate**. Shaham is "a sensitive, subtle musician, strongly inclined to rich, multi-shaded tonal nuances and romantic expressiveness of phrasing," with "one of the fastest and most accurate pairs of hands of any violinist now performing" (*Washington Post*). Those hands perform on a 1699 "Countess Polignac" Stradivarius, which Shaham affectionately calls his "fiddle."

PROGRAM

Shaham will perform six pieces during the evening. The Sonata for Violin and Piano by English composer William Walton (1902–1983) includes an allegro, an andante theme with seven variations and a coda. The work was composed for Yehudi Menuhin and prompted by the death of a romantic companion of Walton's, the music patron Alice Wimborne. The Sonata No. 2 in A Minor (BWV. 1003) by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) includes grave, fuga, andante and allegro movements. The work of Spanish composer Joaquin Rodrigo (1901–1999) is an homage to the rich and varied cultures of Spain. His *Sonata Pimpante* is followed by three pieces by fellow countryman Pablo de Sarasate (1844–1908): *Zapateado*, *Romanza Andaluza* and *Zigeunerweisen*.

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GIL SHAHAM

Gil Shaham was born in 1971 to Israeli parents studying at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. When he was two, the family moved back to Israel, where he began playing the violin at age seven. By ten he was making his debut with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, followed the next year by a debut with the Israel Philharmonic. Later that year, 1982, after taking first prize in Israel's Claremont Competition, he went to New York on a scholarship with the prestigious Juilliard School. His teachers have included the famed Dorothy DeLay, Jens Ellerman, Hyo Kang, Samuel Bernstein and Chaim Taub.

Shaham began performing regularly with major United States and international orchestras while still in his teens. He made his celebrated debut in 1989 at the age of 18 with the London Symphony Orchestra on a mere 24 hours' notice, filling in for an ill Itzhak Perlman. His performance made headlines and Shaham was awarded the coveted Avery Fisher Career Grant in 1990.

In the past year alone, Shaham has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the National Symphony, and the orchestras or symphonies of Cleveland, Philadelphia, Houston, Seattle, Atlanta and Cincinnati, as well as United States tours with the Chicago Symphony and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. In addition to his recital tours in Europe and Japan, he appeared abroad with the orchestras of Berlin, Copenhagen and Moscow, and with the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra as part of its 70th Anniversary concerts. Among his more than two dozen concerto and solo CD's are a number of best-sellers that have earned him such multiple Grammy Awards, a Grand Prix du Disque, a Diapason d'Or, and a Gramophone Editor's Choice. His most recent recordings have been produced for his own label, Canary Classics.

Shaham is known to be so passionate about music that even if he is not involved in the second half of a concert, he often returns after intermission, sits onstage in the back row, and plays in the string section. Shaham is "one of today's pre-eminent violinists"

with “an emotional context to his technical brilliance” (*The New York Times*).

AKIRA EGUCHI

Partnering with Shaham is pianist **Akira Eguchi**, who studied at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music (where he subsequently served on the faculty) and The Juilliard School. Eguchi is the recipient of numerous awards and prizes, including the prestigious William Petchek Award and the William Schuman Prize from The Juilliard School for outstanding achievement and leadership in music, first prize at both the Gina Bachauer International Scholarship Competition and the Brahms Piano Concerto Competition at Juilliard, awards at the International Chamber Music Competition in Paris, and the Aleida Schweitzer Award for the outstanding accompanist at the International Wieniawski Violin Competition in Poland. Also active as a composer, his works include cadenzas for the Mozart Violin Concertos K.216 and K.219, commissioned by Kyoko Takezawa and Julian Rachlin, and cadenzas for the Haydn Cello Concerto in C Major, commissioned by Ko Iwasaki. In 2003, Gershwin Piano Selections, arranged by Eguchi, was published by Zen-On.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Gil Shaham on Sunday, January 20 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$34.00, \$48.00, and \$62.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; 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.

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

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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.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, January 20, at 3:00 p.m.

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

Recital

Gil Shaham, violin
Akira Eguchi, piano

Program:

Walton/Sonata for violin and piano
J.S. Bach/Sonata No. 2 in A minor (BWV. 1003)
Rodrigo/Sonata pimpante
Sarasate/Zapateado, Romanza Andaluza, Zigeunerweisen

Tickets: \$34.00, \$48.00, and \$62.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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