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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 17, 2008

**VIOLA DA GAMBA MAESTRO JORDI SAVALL RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES
WITH HESPÉRION XXI AND LA CAPELLA REIAL DE CATALUNYA
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AT 8:00 P.M. AT
BERKELEY'S FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

SIGHTLINES: Pre-concert talk by University of California, Berkeley Professor Kate van Orden Saturday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. at First Congregational Church

BERKELEY, January 17, 2008—Bringing the richness of the ancient Hispanic and European musical repertoire back to life, Barcelona-based renowned early music ensemble **Hespérion XXI** and the vocalists of **La Capella Reial de Catalunya** return to Cal Performances for the Bay Area premiere of *Lost Paradises* **Saturday, February 16 at 8:00 p.m.** in Berkeley's **First Congregational Church**. Led by the “robust [and] soulful” (*The Economist*) viol virtuoso and conductor **Jordi Savall**, the groups will be joined by soprano **Montserrat Figueras** for an evening of 15th century music and literature. The program includes works by composers **Josquin des Près** and **Juan del Enzina**, among others; and writers **Hernando Colón** (son of Christopher Columbus), **Ibn Zamrak** and **Andrés Bernáldez**. With text recited in Arabic, Hebrew, Aramaic and Latin and songs sung in Spanish, Catalan, Ladino and Italian, the concert showcases the 17 world-class musicians involved. *Lost Paradises* is comprised of the music and text from old *Hesperia* (the Italian and Iberian peninsulas) through the Age of Christopher Columbus; the production pays respect to the Old World that was lost and the New World that came into being.

A **Sightlines** pre-concert talk will be given by UC Berkeley Professor Kate van Orden Saturday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. *Sightlines* talks are free to ticketholders and will be held at First Congregational Church.

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JORDI SAVALL

Born in Igualada, Barcelona, **Jordi Savall**'s path to the *viola da gamba* was through the cello, which he studied at the Conservatory of Music and graduated in 1965. "I had played some viol pieces that were arranged for cello and found them very special," he explains. "I wanted to hear them on the instrument they were composed for." In 1968, after three years of teaching himself the *viola da gamba*, Savall began studying with August Wenziger at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in Basel, Switzerland, becoming Wenziger's successor in 1973. "No one plays this eccentric, eloquent instrument more beautifully than Savall...Savall has recaptured, as far as anyone can tell, not just the technique but also the artistic spirit of the Renaissance musicians who made the viol the center of their world" (*The New Yorker*).

Savall's primary *viola da gamba* was built in 1697 in London by Barak Norman, and was at one time converted into a cello. Savall had it restored as a seven-string instrument with the traditional, moveable gut frets. The old instrument, combined with Savall's meticulous research and formidable technique, produces the closest possible re-creation of early music and its performance practice, often shedding new light on old standards. "When we play something like *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*," notes Savall, "it's almost like new music to us.... I'm not sure a standard orchestra hears music like that" (*The Fretboard Journal*).

Savall has made over 160 recordings and continues to record at the rate of about six projects per year. He inaugurated his own early-music label, Alia Vox, in 1998. His most widely known recording is that for Alain Corneau's film *Tous les Matins du Monde* (*All the Mornings of the World*), which won a César award for the best soundtrack. The film features the music of composers Marais and de Sainte-Colombe, arranged and performed by Savall.

Savall was named an Officer in the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 1988 and the *Creu de Sant Jordi* by the Generalitat de Catalunya (Spain) in 1990. Savall, additionally, has received many honors, including the *Medalla de Oro de las Bellas Artes* by the Spanish Culture and Education Ministry in 1998; Doctor *honoris causa* of the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium (2000); "Victoire de la Musique" in recognition of his professional achievements

(2002); the Gold Medal of the Parliament of Catalonia (2003), and the German “Preise der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik” (2003).

HESPÉRIION XXI

Jordi Savall, soprano Montserrat Figueras, Lorenzo Alpert (winds and percussion), and Hopkinson Smith (plucked instruments) founded **Hespérior XX** in 1974 with the aim of studying and interpreting early music and the Hispanic and European repertoire written before 1800. The group is characterized by its eclectic artistic choices, extensive repertoire and deep knowledge of different styles and periods.

While Alpert and Smith no longer perform with the group, Hespérior XXI has been augmented with many other fine musicians for this tour: **Pierre Hamon**, *flautas* (Spanish flute); **Sergi Casademunt**, tenor viola de gamba; **Philippe Pierlot**, bass viola de gamba; **Begoña Olavide**, *psalterio* (a string instrument); **Driss El Maloumi**, *oud* (a pear-shaped instrument similar to a lute); **Dimitri Psonis**, *santur* (hammered dulcimer of Iran); **Enrique Solinis**, *vihuela de mano y guitarra* (Spanish guitar); **David Mayor**, percussion; plus Savall on the soprano viola de gamba and *rebab* (an Arabic string instrument).

Hespérior XXI’s instrumentation expands and contracts as its chosen repertoire demands. “We wanted to go back to the original sources, and to conserve the music with maximum respect, but also, to make it as alive and modern as possible.” Savall explains. “[We have] added XXI, to say that we are musicians from our time, not from ancient times.”

LA CAPELLA REIAL DE CATALUNYA

Founded in Barcelona in 1987 by Savall and Figueras, **La Capella Reial de Catalunya** is composed of solo-caliber singers. The group’s aim is to make Catalan historic music and Hispanic music known all over the world. The group maintains an active concert and recording schedule, having performed at important festivals in Catalonia, Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Austria, Canada, the United States, Mexico, Australia, Israel, Japan, the Philippines and Hong Kong. The ensemble has performed on dozens of recordings and the soundtracks of the films *Les Batailles* and *Les Prisons*.

Members of La Capella Reial de Catalunya are **Begoña Olavide**, mezzosoprano; **David Sagastume**, countertenor; **Lluís Vilamajó**, tenor; **Furio Zanasi**, baritone; **Daniel Carnovich**, bass; **Nestor Serrano** and **Manuel Forcano**, reciters; plus Figueras, soprano.

TICKET INFORMATION

This concert is sold-out. Tickets for **Jordi Savall** and **Hespèrion XXI & La Capella Reial de Catalunya** on **Saturday, February 16 at 8:00 p.m. in First Congregational Church** are priced at **\$52.00** and may become available due to last minute returns. Call for ticket availability, or be added to the notification list. 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 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.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; 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 Ticket hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, February 16 from 7:00–7:30 p.m.

Sightlines

First Congregational Church

2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Hespèrion XXI & La Capella Reial de Catalunya concert pre-performance talk by Professor **Kate van Orden**, UC Berkeley Department of Music. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with artists and scholars, designed to enrich the concertgoer's experience. These events are free to ticketholders.

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Saturday, February 16 at 8:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church

2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Music Before 1850

Lost Paradises

Hespèrion XXI

& La Capella Reial de Catalunya

Jordi Savall, director and viola da gamba

Montserrat Figueras, soprano

Program:

Lost Paradises includes works by composers Josquin des Près and Juan del Enzina, among others; and writers Hernando Colón, Ibn Zamrak and Andrés Bernáldez.

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