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**RISING STAR SOPRANO KATE ROYAL MAKES HER CAL PERFORMANCES
RECITAL DEBUT ON SUNDAY, APRIL 13 AT 3:00 PM AT HERTZ HALL**

BERKELEY, March 10, 2008—Young English soprano **Kate Royal**, with a voice that is “intoxicatingly true” (*The Independent*), will make her Cal Performances recital debut on **Sunday, April 13 at 3:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall**. One of the most exciting young sopranos today, Royal's exceptional technique and sound have attracted the attention of critics, who have likened her to legends Kiri Te Kanawa and Renée Fleming. “Kate Royal is just at the start of her career, yet there is a touch of greatness there already” (*The Times*, London). Royal will sing a program of songs by **Joaquin Rodrigo, Enrique Granados, Claude Debussy, Richard Strauss** and **Joseph Cantaloube** accompanied by pianist **Roger Vignoles**, whom *The New York Times* has described as “a fine and sensitive collaborator”.

PROGRAM

At Berkeley, Kate Royal displays her “creamy and pure” (*Gramophone*) voice in a program that includes less frequently heard works by Strauss, as well as lieder from Canteloube, Debussy and 20th-century Spanish composers Granados and Rodrigo. She will begin with the most recently composed song of the afternoon, Rodrigo's *Cuatro Madrigales Amatorios* (1948). Following is “La maja y el ruiseñor” (The Lady and the Nightingale), from the one-act opera *Goyescas* by Granados which, along with *Madrigales*, was recorded for Royal's 2007 self-titled album. Next up are “Le balcon” and “Le jet d'eau” from Debussy's *Cinq Poèmes de Baudelaire*, and “Air de Lia” from *L'enfant prodigue*. After intermission, Royal will sing works by Strauss including the entirety of his *Mädchenblümen* Op. 22 and “Einerlei,” part of *Five Little Songs* for voice and piano, Op. 69. From Canteloube, selections from *Chants d'Auvergne*, a multi-series collection of folk songs from the Auvergne region of France compiled and orchestrated by Canteloube and sung in the local language, Occitan, will be offered.

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KATE ROYAL

Born in London in 1979, **Kate Royal** studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the National Opera Studio, graduating in the summer of 2004. In that same year, she won the 2004 Kathleen Ferrier Award as well as the 2004 John Christie Award. Royal first began to attract wider renown after substituting for an indisposed soprano in the role of Pamina in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. In her unscheduled debut, Royal was described as “already an astonishingly assured, poised performer” (*Opera*). Since then, Royal has dazzled audiences and critics alike with her sensitive interpretations of many beloved characters in the operatic repertoire, and a voice and technique that exceed her years, the former of which has been described to have “a genuine royalty about it, a warm centrality like the sun” (*OperaNow*). Royal appears in recital and operatic performances all over Europe and beyond, having made her US debut with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington in 2006 under the baton of Helmuth Rilling.

Royal’s already extensive repertoire includes numerous operatic roles including those of Helena in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and the Governess in *The Turn of the Screw* (Britten); the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Ilia in *Idomeneo*, and Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* (Mozart); and the Countess in Ades’ *The Tempest*. An exclusive artist with EMI Classics since 2006, Royal has released four recordings, including *Ecce Cor Meum*, a composition by Sir Paul McCartney.

ROGER VIGNOLES

One of Britain’s most outstanding musical artists, pianist **Roger Vignoles** has worked with many of the greatest singers of his time throughout a period spanning over three decades. Originally inspired by the playing of Gerald Moore, Vignoles studied at the Royal College of Music and completed his training with the distinguished Viennese-born Paul Hamburger. His artistry as an accompanist has taken him around the world to places such as the Deutsche Oper in Berlin, the Musikverein in Vienna, and Carnegie Hall, with Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Elisabeth Söderström and Sir Thomas Allen, among others. In addition to recitals, Vignoles is a regular on the music festival circuit, performing at—and also presenting and directing—festivals around the world. Vignoles’s 1997 rendition of *Winterreise* with Robert Holl was hailed by *The Times* of

London as “one of the most memorable performances of the year.” In 1998 he inaugurated the Nagaoka Winter Festival in Japan, returning each year as artistic director until 2002. Most recently, in 2007, Vignoles was the Artistic Director of Leeds Lieder +, a weekend of song with artists, including Mark Padmore, Measha Brueggergosman, Florian Boesch and Elizabeth Watts.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Kate Royal**, soprano, in recital with **Roger Vignoles**, piano, on **Sunday, April 13, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall** are priced at \$42. 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 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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Cal Performances 2007/08 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, April 13 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Recital

Kate Royal, soprano

Roger Vignoles, piano

Program:

Rodrigo/*Cuatro Madrigales Amatorios*

Granados/"La maja y el ruiseñor"

Debussy/ *Cinq poèmes de Baudelaire*: "Le balcon"; "Le jet d'eau;" and, *L'enfant prodigue*: "Air de Lia"

Canteloube/"Le Bossu;" "La Délaïssado;" "Malurous qu'o uno fenno;" "Berceuse"; "Uno jionto posturo"

Strauss/ *Mädchenblumen* Op.22: Kornblumen; Mohnblumen; Epheu; Wasserrose; and "Einerlei;"
Ich wollt ein Sträusslein binden; Als mir dein Lied erklang

Tickets: \$42.00, 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.

– Cal Performances –