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**POLISH BARITONE MARIUSZ KWIECIEN SINGS SCHUMANN, TCHAIKOVSKY,
KARLOWICZ AND RAVEL SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

BERKELEY, October 31, 2007—The Polish baritone Mariusz Kwiecien, a rising young singer who “commands attention whenever he’s onstage” (*San Francisco Chronicle*), will sing 19th- and early 20th-century songs by **Robert Schumann, Piotr Tchaikovsky, Mieczyslaw Karlowicz** and **Maurice Ravel** at a Cal Performances recital **Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall** on the UC Berkeley campus. Known for his handsome voice, incisive musicianship and captivating stage presence, Kwiecien is in the midst of a busy 2007–2008 season that will take him from the world’s grand opera stages—he is a regular performer at New York’s Metropolitan Opera—to intimate recital halls. “He is a magnetic stage presence: his performance raised goose bumps again and again” (*Opera News*). Accompanying Kwiecien will be **Howard Watkins**, an assistant conductor of the Metropolitan Opera and a sought-after teacher and recital pianist in his own right.

PROGRAM

Mariusz Kwiecien will begin his recital with **Robert Schumann’s *Dichterliebe***, “A Poet’s Love.” Written in 1840—Schumann’s prolific *Liederjahr* (literally “year of songs”), during which he married Clara Wieck and composed some 150 songs—*Dichterliebe* is a cycle of 16 songs based on poems by Heinrich Heine. Considered among the greatest of early Romantic lieder, the songs of *Dichterliebe* are known for their wide range of emotional expression.

Piotr Ilych Tchaikovsky wrote some 100 songs in a career better known for operas and orchestral works. His most successful songs are noteworthy because of the composer’s gift for writing melodies that capture the emotional impact of the words, a gift on display in

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“**Blogoslavlayu vas lesa,**” “**Net, tolko tot kto snal**” and the beloved “**Seranada Don Juana**” (Don Juan’s Serenade).

The Polish composer **Mieczyslaw Karłowicz** composed an impressive body of music in his brief life. (An avid mountain hiker, he was killed by an avalanche at age 33.) Karłowicz was influenced by Bizet, Weber and Brahms from his early childhood spent abroad. The Romantic songs to be sung by Kwiecien—“**Smutna jest dusza moja,**” “**Spi w blaskach nocy...**,” “**Pamiętam ciche, jasne, złote dni,**” “**Mów do mnie jeszcze**” and “**Najpiękniejsze**” **piosenki**—were written in the last years of the 19th century, mostly on words of the Polish poet Kazimierz Przerwa Tetmajer.

Don Quichotte à Dulcinée was **Maurice Ravel**’s last written work, composed in 1932-1933 on texts by Paul Morand. The three songs—**Chanson Romanesque**, **Chanson épique**, and **Chanson à boire**—were commissioned for use in a film by Georg Wilhelm Pabst but were not completed in time to be included. Sung by Don Quixote, the songs are based on three traditional Spanish dance rhythms: the *quajira*, the *zorzica* and the *jota*.

MARIUSZ KWIECIEN

Born in Krakow, Poland, in 1972, **Mariusz Kwiecien** (pronounced Mah-ryoosh Kvyeh-tchen) began his career in the Krakow and Warsaw opera houses in the early 1990s, and by the late 1990s he was performing with major European and American opera companies. He is an alumnus of the Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Young Artist Program and made his Met debut in 1999 as Kuligin in Leos Janacek’s *Kát’a Kabanová*. Since 2003, Kwiecien has been an annual presence on the Met stage, singing Marcello in *La bohème* (2003), Silvio in *I Pagliacci* (2004), Count Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* (2005), Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* (2005), Dr. Malatesta in *Don Pasquale* (2006) and Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* (2007). Of his turn

as Enrico *The New York Times* wrote, “Mariusz Kwiecien has emerged in recent seasons as a major baritone. This handsome and dynamic young Polish artist was a vocally impassioned Enrico, who made that sometimes flat character seem in ways as desperate as the sister he controls.” Indeed, Kwiecien is noted for a stage presence to match his perfectly centered voice: “The revelation was baritone Mariusz Kwiecien. New to the company, he exuded genuine star power” (*San Diego Union Tribune*) and “The dynamic young Polish baritone Mariusz Kwiecien was mesmerizing ... his robust voice matched by his robust physique” (*The New York Times*).

This season Kwiecien will sing on opera stages including the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; the Lyric Opera of Chicago; the Seattle Opera (which recently named Kwiecien its Artist of the Year for 2006–2007); and the Santa Fe Opera. In addition to opera performances, Kwiecien will sing Brahms’s *Ein deutsches Requiem* twice: once with Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony, a performance which will be recorded for Telarc; and again with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra in the Netherlands, in what will be Valery Gergiev’s final performances there as music director. Kwiecien’s recital schedule includes appearances in Kansas City; New York City; Vancouver, BC; Fort Worth, Texas; and Washington, DC.

Kwiecien has won awards at numerous international vocal competitions including the 1994 Breslau International Competition, the Vienna State Opera and Hamburg State Opera prizes in the 1996 Hans Gabor/Belvedere Competition in Austria, and the Mozart Interpretation Prize and Audience Choice Award at the 1998 Francisco Viñas Competition in Barcelona. He represented Poland in the 1999 Singer of the World competition in Cardiff, Wales.

HOWARD WATKINS

American pianist **Howard Watkins** is a frequent collaborator with some of the world’s leading musicians, both on the concert stage and as an assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera. He has appeared in recitals and concerts throughout North and South America, Europe, Russia, Israel and Asia, and has shared the stage with artists including Kathleen Battle, Grace

Bumbry, Elizabeth Futral, Anthony Dean Griffey, Anna Netrebko, Rolando Villazon and violinist Sarah Chang. He also appears with rising musical stars including Lawrence Brownlee, Charles Castronovo, Alexandra Deshorties and Gregory Turay. Representing the Marilyn Horne Foundation, he has performed in recitals and educational residencies throughout the United States and at the Horne Foundation Gala Recital at The Juilliard School in New York.

Watkins, who holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan, has appeared in recital in New York City; Atlanta; Washington, DC; and other cities. He has also performed with the Met Chamber Ensemble in Weill and Zankel Halls in New York under the baton of James Levine. He is on the faculty of the Tanglewood Music Center and the International Institute of Vocal Arts in Chiari, Italy, and has taught at the Aspen Music Festival, the Banff Centre, the Meadowmount School of Music and the North Carolina School of the Arts.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Mariusz Kwiecien**, baritone, in recital with **Howard Watkins**, piano, on **Sunday, December 9 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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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Recital

Mariusz Kwiecien, baritone

Howard Watkins, piano

Program:

Schumann/*Dichterliebe*, Op. 48

Tchaikovsky/"Bogoslavlayu vas lesa." Op. 47, No. 5; "Net, tolko tot kto znal," Op. 6 No. 6; "Seranada Don Juana," Op. 38 No. 1

Karłowicz/"Smutna jest dusza moja," Op. 1 No. 6; "Spi w blaskach nocy..." Op. 3 No. 4; "Pamietam ciche, jasne, zlate dnie," Op. 1 No. 5; "Mow do mnie jeszcze," Op. 3 No. 1; "Najpiekniejsze piosnki," Op. 4

Ravel/ Don Quichotte à Dulcinée

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.

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