

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 30, 2007

**JAZZ PIANIST, VOCALIST AND SONGWRITER PATRICIA BARBER BRINGS HER
UNIQUE SOUND TO CAL PERFORMANCES SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 AT 8:00 P.M.**

BERKELEY, August 30, 2007—Chicago-based jazz pianist, singer and songwriter **Patricia Barber** brings her sharp intelligence and dramatic musical skills to **Wheeler Auditorium** on **Saturday, September 29 at 8:00 p.m.** Barber, whose “intricate, ruminative works” (TIME Magazine), 2003 Guggenheim Fellowship, and tireless touring have made her a critical, intellectual and audience favorite, will perform works from *Mythologies*, her 2006 album of songs based on characters from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*. “The expressive range of this music proves thrilling, even though all of it clearly derives from a single sensibility: the spare, sometimes austere jazz idiom that long has been Barber’s forte,” wrote the *Chicago Tribune*. Backing her up are her longtime musical cohorts guitarist **Neal Alger**, drummer **Eric Montzka** and bassist **Michael Arnopol**.

Barber has spent some fifteen years developing a singular sound and an international following. She has toured often and released nine highly original and critically acclaimed albums since 1989, including *Café Blue*, *Modern Cool*, *Nightclub*, *Verse*, and *Live: A Fortnight in France*. She is “the most fearless, most intellectually stimulating and, by extension, most interesting singer-songwriter-pianist on the American jazz scene” (*JazzTimes*).

Barber’s voice has been described by *DownBeat* as a “noir, conspiratorially whispered alto” and she sometimes comes across more street-smart than book-smart. She applied for and received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2003 to focus on the Ovid-themed song cycle—a project that had been on her mind since she saw playwright Mary Zimmerman’s adaptation of *Metamorphoses*. It was the first and only grant she has ever applied for. Past Guggenheim recipients have included writer Noam Chomsky, poet e.e. cummings, and composer Aaron

MORE

Copland. Jazz musicians rarely get Guggenheim Fellowships, and Barber was the first popular songwriter to receive one. She used the grant, and the time off from touring it gave her, to create *Mythologies*, a song cycle based on characters from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* including Morpheus, Pygmalion, Phaethon, and Persephone. Barber's *Mythologies* has provoked critical acclaim and much discussion in the jazz world.

Barber's performance in Berkeley is part of an extended stay, precipitated by her receiving the University's prestigious Townsend Resident Fellowship. This multi-disciplinary fellowship is intended to bring to the Berkeley campus persons (not necessarily academics) with whom faculty and students might not otherwise have direct or sustained contact. Barber's residency in the Music Department at Berkeley begins fall 2007.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Patricia Barber** on **Saturday, September 29** are **\$20.00**. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students; UC Berkeley Alumni Association members, UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, and other students receive a \$5 discount. 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, and 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. For more information call 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

MORE

#

Cal Performances' 2007/2008 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC is 2007/08 media sponsors.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, September 29 at 8:00 p.m.

Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Jazz

Patricia Barber, piano and vocals

Neal Alger, guitarist

Eric Montzka, drummer

Michael Arnpol, bassist

Program:

Chicago-based jazz vocalist, composer and pianist Patricia Barber and her band perform selections from her CD *Mythologies*, among other works.

Tickets: \$20.00, 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.

MORE