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**PIANO GREAT RUDOLF BUCHBINDER PLAYS
EIGHT BEETHOVEN SONATAS IN TWO BACK-TO-BACK RECITALS:
SATURDAY, MARCH 22 AT 8:00 P.M. AND
SUNDAY, MARCH 23 AT 3:00 P.M. AT HERTZ HALL**

BERKELEY, February 13, 2008—**Rudolf Buchbinder** is not afraid to make epic musical gestures. He has played and conducted all five Beethoven piano concertos in a single day; he has performed all 12 Mozart piano concertos in a single season. He has also recorded all 32 Beethoven piano sonatas and performed them in an on going series of recitals around the world. That recital series returns for its fourth installment to Cal Performances this spring when the Viennese pianist presents two back-to-back recitals: **Saturday, March 22 at 8:00 p.m.**, and **Sunday, March 23 at 3:00 p.m.**; both concerts are at Hertz Hall. Buchbinder, who plays “brilliantly and effectively, showing that even Beethoven's best-loved ... works never lose their appeal” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), will perform sonatas mostly from the composer’s early period.

PROGRAM

The Saturday, March 22 evening recital in Hertz Hall presents four sonatas, beginning with a pair from the same opus: Sonata No. 9 in E major, Op. 14, No. 1, that showcased Beethoven’s orchestral ambitions; and the playful Sonata No. 10 in G major, Op. 14, No. 2. Also on the program is “Pastoral,” Sonata No. 15 in D major, Op. 28, known for its easygoing manner and geniality; and “Pathétique,” Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13, a reflection of Beethoven’s inner struggle as he comes to terms with his approaching deafness.

The next afternoon, Sunday, March 23, Buchbinder opens with Beethoven’s second sonata, the Sonata in A Major, Op. 2, No. 2, dedicated to Joseph Haydn, followed by the Sonata in G Major, Op. 31, No. 1, a relatively conservative and conventional sonata when compared with the other works in its opus. The Sonata in E Minor, Op. 90, written after Beethoven had taken a five-year hiatus from composing piano works, initiates the second half of the recital, and the program finishes with the Sonata in C Major, Op. 53, “Waldstein,” a novel piece in spite of its conventional three-movement structure.

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ROUDOLF BUCHBINDER

Born in 1946 in Czechoslovakia, Rudolf Buchbinder has lived his entire life in Vienna, where he began his piano studies at age five as the youngest student to ever be admitted to the Vienna Musik Hochschule. He first toured outside of Europe when he was 19 years old, visiting Japan, Central America and South America, with a California debut occurring the following year with the California Chamber Symphony. Buchbinder is a regular guest of such renowned orchestras as the Berlin Philharmonic, Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam, London Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, Vienna Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony and Cleveland Orchestra. He has collaborated with the world's most distinguished conductors, including Lorin Maazel, Claudio Abbado, Carlo Maria Giulini, Zubin Mehta, Kurt Masur, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Christoph von Dohnányi and Wolfgang Sawallisch.

For Buchbinder's recording of his formidable cycle of work on all 32 Beethoven piano sonatas, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* hailed Buchbinder "one of today's most important and competent Beethoven performers." Buchbinder has over 100 recordings in all, many on the Teldec label, including an 18-disc set of Haydn's complete works for piano for which he was awarded the "Grand Prix du Disque." He has also recorded rarely performed pieces such as the collection of *Diabelli Variations*. Buchbinder's cycle of the complete Mozart piano concertos, which he conducted and performed with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, was recorded live at the Vienna Konzerthaus. Joachim Kaiser, Germany's renowned music critic, named the recording CD of the Year in 1998. Marking the 100th anniversary of Johann Strauss's death in 1999, Buchbinder recorded a highly praised CD of piano transcriptions, entitled *Waltzing Strauss*. The following year, his live recording of both Brahms piano concertos with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, under the direction of Nikolaus Harnoncourt, was released.

In June 2003, Buchbinder conducted and performed all five Beethoven concertos with the Vienna Symphony in one day, an unprecedented event, to sold-out audiences at the Konzerthaus in Vienna and extraordinary critical acclaim. One of his highlights in 2006 was his concerts with the Wiener Philharmoniker on the occasion of the Vienna International Festival; the program consisted of the 12 piano concertos by Mozart and has been recorded on DVD.

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TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Rudolf Buchbinder** on **Saturday, March 22** at **8:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall** and **Sunday, March 23** at **3:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall** are priced at **\$42.00**. 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 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

Saturday, March 22 at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 23 at 3:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

Recital

Rudolf Buchbinder, piano

Program A (Saturday, March 22):

Beethoven/Sonata in E Major, Op. 14, No. 1; Sonata in G Major, Op. 14, No. 2;
Sonata in D Major, Op. 28 "Pastorale"; Sonata in C Minor, Op. 13 "Pathétique"

Program B: (Sunday, March 23)

Beethoven/Sonata in A Major, Op. 2, No. 2; Sonata in G Major, Op. 31, No. 1;
Sonata in E Minor, Op. 90; Sonata in C Major, Op. 53 "Waldstein"

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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