

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 8, 2007

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE ZEHETMAIR QUARTET
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 5:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

BERKELEY, October 8, 2007 – Recognized as one of the most exciting string quartets today, the **Zehetmair Quartet** comes to Cal Performances **Sunday, November 11 at 5:00 p.m.** at **Hertz Hall**. The group, founded by the violinist **Thomas Zehetmair**, is comprised of Zehetmair, **Kuba Jakowicz** (violin), **Ruth Killius** (viola), and **Ursula Smith** (cello). Hailed by the *London Times* as “full-blooded and raw... bold and magical,” the Zehetmair Quartet is renowned for performing keen interpretations of oft-described obscure works by Bartók and Schumann, among others, entirely from memory. From their first recording of Bartók’s 4th and Hartmann’s 1st string quartets, for which they won the Quarterly Prize by the Deutsche Schallplattenkritik, the quartet has been dedicated to maintaining the integrity of a piece in the manner that the composer intended, rehearsing only one program per year and looking strictly to original manuscripts of compositions. As is Zehetmair’s preference, the program at Cal Performances mixes older and newer works, including **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**’s Quartet in G major, K. 156 (1772-73); **Paul Hindemith**’s Quartet No. 4, Op. 22 (1921); and **Robert Schumann**’s Quartet No. 1 in A minor, Op. 41 (1842).

THOMAS ZEHETMAIR

Violinist, conductor, and founder of the Zehetmair Quartet **Thomas Zehetmair** has continuously received accolades for his wide body of work in the span of over two decades. The Salzburg-born musician juggles the roles of soloist, conductor, and leader of his own quartet, approaching each task with fervor and awareness. Since his debut as a soloist at age 16 and winning first prize in the International Mozart Competition a year later, Zehetmair has developed an impressive career that has been studded with awards and acknowledgements. He took part in the epic 153-CD box set *Bach 2000: The Complete Bach Edition*, makes regular guest appearances with renowned orchestras such as the Chicago, Philadelphia, and Boston Symphony

-MORE-

Orchestras, and has given numerous first performances, including violin concertos written for him by Heinz Holliger and James Dillon.

In 2002, in addition to his solo endeavors and works with his namesake quartet, Zehetmair joined Northern Sinfonia as its Music Director. His post has been met with favorable reviews, and his ability to bring a musical piece to life has permeated not only his playing but his conducting. The *London Times* called “his direction... every bit as inspiring and visionary as his own violin playing.”

Zehetmair founded his Zehetmair Quartet in 1994. Their 2004 release of Schumann quartets earned them the Diapason d'Or, *Grammophone's* Record of the Year Award, and various other prizes and positions on many publications' Best of the Year lists. In its short existence, the Zehetmair Quartet has risen to become one of the most respected chamber quartets on the circuit today.

ZEHETMAIR QUARTET

Conjuring life into every piece of music they perform and capturing audiences “with a display of musical expertise and compelling empathy” (*The Reading Chronicle*), the **Zehetmair Quartet** has reached the top of critical and popular acclaim during its thirteen-year existence. Since its first concert tour in 1998, the success of which resulted in re-engagements by all of the tour's promoters, the quartet has performed in Europe, Asia, and the United States to captivated crowds, often introducing into the American musical palate long-overlooked works by composers such as Schumann, Bartók, Hindemith, and Hartmann. In addition to first violinist and founder Thomas Zehetmair, the group is composed of original member Ruth Killius on the viola and newcomers Kuba Jakowicz and Ursula Smith on the violin and cello, respectively.

Often admired by critics and audiences alike for performing their programs from memory, the Zehetmairs concentrate on one set program each year, cultivating the selected pieces to a high standard of excellence that, contrary to what a limited repertoire might imply, gives each musician more freedom and opportunity to familiarize himself with the music. Indeed, the conspicuously low number of pieces in their repertoire is the foundation upon which

Thomas Zehetmair started the quartet, a reaction to chamber music festivals that often require a musician to absorb a large number of works, resulting in what Zehetmair believed was a compromise in musicianship for the sake of variety. Speaking of his quartet's philosophy behind the necessity of memorizing a limited repertoire, which has occasionally met criticism for what could be construed as its overt showmanship, Zehetmair says, “[playing from memory] allows us to create an even larger overview of the whole piece. We also communicate better because we don't have music stands blocking our view.”

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Zehetmair Quartet** on **Sunday, November 11** at **5:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$46.00**. 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, 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.

#

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

Classical 102.1 KDFC is 2007/2008 media sponsor.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, November 11 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Chamber Music

Zehetmair Quartet

Thomas Zehetmair, violin

Kuba Jakowicz, violin

Ruth Killius, viola

Ursula Smith, cello

Program:

Mozart/Quartet in G major, K. 156

Hindemith/Quartet No. 4, Op. 22

Schumann/Quartet No. 1 in a-minor, Op. 41

Tickets: \$46.00, 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 -