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**VIOLINIST JULIA FISCHER LEADS ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN IN THE
FIELDS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 AT 8:00 P.M. AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**A *Sightlines* pre-performance talk will be given by musicologist John Prescott Saturday,
Saturday February 14 at 7:00 p.m.**

BERKELEY, December 23, 2008—Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the venerable **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields**, German violinist **Julia Fischer** will join the 21-member chamber orchestra at Cal Performances' Zellerbach Hall **Saturday, February 14 at 8:00 p.m.** The 25-year-old Fischer, *Gramophone* magazine's youngest ever "Artist of the Year" in 2007, will serve as leader and soloist on the conductorless ensemble's North American tour which coincides with the release of Fischer's first Decca album, a collection of Bach concertos. A "soulful musician who doesn't let an ounce of ego come between the music and the listener" (*BBC Music Magazine*), Fischer is pleased to be part of the group. "We have such a great sense of community," she said. "It's not that they do what I want, more that the Academy and I share a very similar approach to Bach." The Berkeley program includes two J. S. Bach violin concertos: A minor, BWV 1041 and in E major, BWV 1042. Benjamin Britten's Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge, Op. 10 and William Walton's Sonata for Strings complete the concert.

A *Sightlines* pre-performance talk with musicologist John Prescott will be held Saturday, February 14, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall. This *Sightlines* event is free to all ticket holders.

JULIA FISCHER

Born in Munich, Germany in June 1983, **Julia Fischer** received her first violin lesson at age four. A few months later she traded her violin for a piano and began studying with her mother, Viera Fischer. Her formal violin education began in earnest at the Leopold Mozart Conservatory in Augsburg, under the tutelage of Lydia Dubrowskaya, and at age nine Fischer was admitted to the Munich Academy of Music, and studied with Ana Chumachenko. Fischer made an early mark on the world stage, accumulating awards and accomplishments to rival those of violin masters many

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years her senior. Between 1989 and 2001 she participated in eight national and international soloist competitions, including the International Yehudi Menuhin Violin Competition, receiving first prize for all eight competitions—five for violin and three for piano performances. In her early career, Fischer worked with internationally acclaimed conductors such as Christoph Eschenbach, Lorin Maazel, Yehudi Menuhin, Bernhard Klee, Simone Young and Justus Frantz.

In the summer of 2005, Fischer inaugurated Germany's Schleswig-Holstein Festival and performed at London's Mostly Mozart Festival at the Barbican Centre. While in the United States, she conducted master classes at North Carolina's Eastern Music Festival and in New York City. During the 2007-08 season, Fischer made her professional piano debut at the Alte Oper Frankfurt performing the Grieg Piano Concerto and Saint-Saëns's Violin Concerto No. 3 in the same concert. This season, in addition to the current United States tour, she will perform with the Tonhalle Zurich Orchestra, the Orchestra of Santa Cecilia in Rome and the Philharmonia Orchestra, tour with the Netherlands Philharmonic and return to the Gewandhaus Orchestra and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. In 2009-10, Fischer will be the Artist in Residence with the Tonhalle in Zurich and, similarly, in 2010-11 in Baden-Baden.

ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS

Founded in 1958 by Sir **Neville Marriner**, **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields** is firmly established as one of the world's leading chamber orchestra. "As you travel around the globe, the Academy's name has an aura possessed by no other British orchestras" (*The New York Times*). Formed from a group of leading London musicians and working without a conductor, the Academy gave its first performance in its namesake church in 1959. Demand for the Academy soon began to grow as did the size of the orchestra and the repertoire it performed. Eventually Sir Neville was forced to put down his violin and take up the conductor's baton, but the collegiate spirit and flexibility of the original small, conductorless ensemble remains an Academy hallmark. Today the Academy performs in combinations ranging from a chamber group to a symphony orchestra. "The impact of the ensemble was breathtaking, a riveting likemindedness, laced with spectacular displays of inspired individuality" (*The Scotsman*). Prior to the North American tour, the Academy and Fischer will tour 10 German and Polish cities in January and perform in London.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields** with **Julia Fischer** on **Saturday, February 14 at 8:00 p.m.** at **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$38.00, \$56.00** and **\$80.00**. 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 for UCB students; \$15 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, February 14 from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.
SIGHTLINES

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave, Berkeley

Academy of St. Martin in the Fields pre-performance talk will be given by musicologist John Prescott. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. This event is free to ticket holders.

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Saturday, February 14 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Orchestra

Academy of St. Martin in the Fields

with **Julia Fischer**, violin & leader

Program:

Britten/Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge, Op. 10

Bach/Violin Concerto in A minor, BWV 1041; Violin Concerto in E major, BWV 1042

Walton/Sonata for Strings

Tickets: \$38.00, \$56.00 and \$80.00, 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.

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