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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE
AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
VIOLINIST RICHARD TOGNETTI ON SUNDAY, APRIL 26 AT 3:00 P.M.
AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**The program includes a special appearance by countertenor Andreas Scholl
and a U.S. Premiere**

BERKELEY, March 19, 2009—The **Australian Chamber Orchestra**, “one of the country’s most celebrated ensembles” (*Sydney Morning Herald*), returns to Cal Performances on **Sunday, April 26 at 3:00 p.m.** at Zellerbach Hall. Led by artistic director and violinist **Richard Tognetti**, the ensemble will be joined by German countertenor **Andreas Scholl**, “the finest countertenor of his generation” (*Opera News*). The orchestra has gained an international reputation for its performances of the classical repertoire, innovative projects that span multiple art forms and vigorous commissioning program. The program will include the U.S. premiere of Australian **Roger Smalley’s** *Footwork*, a tango that won the 2007 Australian Music Centre Award for Best Composition by an Australian Composer; **Joseph Haydn’s** Symphony No. 44 in E minor, “*Trauer*,” the third movement of which the composer asked to have played at his own funeral; and movements from the *Monkey Mountains Suite (Zopičich hor)* by Czech composer **Pavel Haas**, arranged by Tognetti. A selection of **George Frideric Handel** arias will sung by Scholl: “*Va tacito e nascosto*,” “*Se parla nel mio cor*” and “*Aure, deh, per pieta*” from *Giulio Cesare*; “*Dove sei*” and “*Vivi tiranno*” from *Rodelinda*; and “*O Lord, Whose Mercies Numberless*” from *Saul*.

AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The **Australian Chamber Orchestra** was founded in Sydney 1975. In its Australian home, the orchestra has 10,000 subscribers to its concert series, and through its tours of Asia, Europe and the U.S. it has developed a devoted international following. Lead violinist **Richard Tognetti**, whose playing has been described as “wonderfully stylish” (*The Australian*), was appointed artistic director

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of the group in 1990. In addition to leading the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Tognetti is an accomplished surfer and made an award-winning documentary film, *Musica Surfica*, about the connections between music and surfing. Tognetti also co-composed and performed the soundtrack for the 2003 film *Master and Commander*, and taught actor Russell Crowe to play the violin for the movie.

Under Tognetti's leadership the Australian Chamber Orchestra has become a flexible and versatile ensemble, appearing as a small chamber group, a small symphony orchestra and an electro-acoustic collective. Orchestra members play on modern or period instruments depending on the repertoire, and in a nod to tradition all of the instruments except the cellists perform standing. Regardless of its size or configuration, the Australian Chamber Orchestra is noted for its unity of sound: "ACO musicians are so attuned to each other that the orchestra functions much like a single instrument" (*Australian Stage*).

Other core members of the Australian Chamber Orchestra are **Helena Rathbone**, principal second violin; **Satu Vänskä**, assistant leader; **Lorna Cumming**, **Aiko Goto**, **Mark Ingwersen** and **Ilya Isakovich**, violins; **Christopher Moore**, principal viola; **Nicole Divall** and **Stephen King**, violas; **Timo-Veikko Valve**, principal cello; **Melissa Barnard** and **Julian Thompson**, cellos; and **Maxime Bibeau**, principal bass.

The Australian Chamber Orchestra's 2009 North American tour will visit nine cities. In the past, the group has performed in Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, London's Wigmore Hall, New York's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, Vienna's Musikverein, Birmingham's Symphony Hall, and Washington DC's Kennedy Center. It has appeared at many festivals, including BBC Proms, Tanglewood, Ravinia, Interlochen and New York's Mostly Mozart festival. The group has collaborated with celebrated soloists including Steven Isserlis, Dawn Upshaw, Imogen Cooper, Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, Melvyn Tan and Katie Noonan.

The group's discography includes a collaboration with pianist Angela Hewitt on the final installment of her 10-year project to record all of Bach's keyboard music—a recording that was "CD of the Month" in *Gramophone* magazine—and a recording of Vivaldi flute concerti with Emmanuel

Pahud. The Australian Chamber Orchestra is recognized by the Australian government as an international flagship arts company.

ANDREAS SCHOLL

Countertenor **Andreas Scholl** was born in Germany and received his early musical training with the *Kiedricher Chorbuben*, the choirboys in Kiedrich, Germany, a group with a rich history dating back to 1383. Scholl studied under Richard Levitt and René Jacobs at the *Schola Cantorum Basiliensis* based in Switzerland. He has been praised for having “the world’s most cultured countertenor voice” (*The Times of London*).

Scholl is renowned for his versatility, being equally comfortable on the opera, concert, or recital stage. Recent opera highlights include a new production of *Partenope* at the Royal Danish Opera, *Rodelinda* at Glyndebourne Festival Opera and the Metropolitan Opera, and *Giulio Cesare* at the Royal Danish Opera, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and Opéra de Lausanne. His concert dates have included appearances with the Cleveland Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Concertgebouw Orchestra and Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin. A 2006 recital in Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall saw Scholl praised for his ability to “spin, float, and stretch a legato line, and to hit the center of his music’s emotional truth” (*Opera News*).

Scholl sings contemporary works in addition to the traditional baroque countertenor repertoire. Italian composer Marco Rosano recently completed a new *Stabat Mater* for Scholl, which the singer debuted in February 2008 in Sydney. Scholl also sings pop music and writes music for theatre and ballet. His compositions for Deutsche Grammophon’s audiobook of Hans Christian Andersen’s *The Emperor’s New Clothes* and *The Nightingale* won an ECHO Award, his song *White as Lilies* appeared on the 1995 recording *The Countertenors*, and he sings backup on a recent recording by the German art-rocker Lando van Herzog.

Scholl’s discography includes *Heroes*, a recording of Baroque and other arias; *Arias for Senesino*, a compilation of works written for the celebrated 18th-century Italian castrato; *Wayfaring Stranger*, a disc of folksongs; and the soundtrack for the 2004 film adaptation of Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice*. For his recordings, Scholl has been lauded for “his

mercurial blend of intelligence, compassion, and a ravishingly beautiful, dauntingly precise voice” (*Gramophone*).

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Australian Chamber Orchestra** led by **Richard Tognetti**, in concert with German countertenor **Andreas Scholl**, on **Sunday, April 26, 2009** at **3:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at \$36, \$56 and \$70. 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

Sunday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Orchestra

Australian Chamber Orchestra

Richard Tognetti, artistic director and leader

Andreas Scholl, countertenor

Program:

Haydn/Symphony No. 44 in E Minor, "*Trauer*"

Handel/ "Va tacito e nascosto" from *Giulio Cesare*

 "Dove sei" from *Rodelinda*

 "Se parla nel mio cor" from *Giulio Cesare*

Smalley/*Footwork*

Handel/ "O Lord, Whose Mercies Numberless" from *Saul*

 "Aure, deh, per pieta" from *Giulio Cesare*

 "Vivi tiranno" from *Rodelinda*

Haas/ From the *Monkey Mountains Suite (Zopičich hor)*

 Arranged by Tognetti from the Quartet No. 2, Op. 7

Tickets: \$36, \$56 and \$70, 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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