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**WUNDERKIND CONRAD TAO MAKES HIS CAL PERFORMANCES
RECITAL DEBUT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

BERKELEY, September 24, 2008—Fourteen-year-old pianist and composer **Conrad Tao** makes his Cal Performances recital debut **Sunday, November 2 at 3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall. Hailed by music critic Harris Goldsmith of *Musical America* as “the most exciting prodigy to ever come my way,” he will perform works by **Ludwig van Beethoven, John Corigliano, Sergei Rachmaninoff** and **Frédéric Chopin** in addition to his a composition of his own. Tao, who embodies “remarkable musical memory [and] brilliant technique” (*Wall Street Journal*), will open the first half of the program with Beethoven’s stormy Piano Sonata No. 23 in F minor, Op. 57 (*Appassionata*), and his own work, *canvas*. After intermission, he continues with Corigliano’s virtuoso showpiece *Etude Fantasy*; Rachmaninoff’s intense and climatic Six Moments Musicaux, Op. 16; and finishes with Chopin’s most difficult piece for piano, Andante spianato et Grande Polonaise brillante, Op. 22.

Born in Urbana, Illinois, **Conrad Tao** was found playing children’s songs on the piano at about 18 months of age. He started taking violin lessons at age three, formal piano lessons at three and a half, gave his first public piano recital at age four and performed a recital at the World Piano Pedagogy Conference at age seven. His past concerto performances include those with the Aspen Festival Orchestra under Leonard Slatkin, the California Symphony, the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra, the Juilliard Pre-College Orchestra, the Miami International Piano Festival Orchestra, the Orlando Philharmonic, the Pennsylvania Sinfonia, the Philadelphia Orchestra under Christoph Eschenbach, the Columbus ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, the Russian National Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, and the Orchestra of St. Luke’s in Carnegie’s family concert in Carnegie Hall. Tao has also given solo recitals at Juilliard’s Paul Hall, the Rockefeller University in New York, Chicago’s Music in the Loft concert series, the Lincoln Theater in Miami Beach and Fort Lauderdale’s Broward Center for the Performing Arts, and he made his debut in Italy last summer.

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As an accomplished composer, Tao has won national prizes since the age of seven, and his compositions have been featured on Chicago WFMT radio's 50th anniversary show and the national radio program *From the Top*. At age 10, his piano composition, *Silhouettes and Shadows*, won the BMI Carlos Surinach Prize; Tao was the youngest winner of BMI's prestigious award for young composers in the Western Hemisphere. He is a five-time consecutive winner of the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer award since 2004, and his *Sonata for Two Pianos* was featured at the 2004 award ceremony and performed at the Aspen Music Festival in 2005.

Tao is currently enrolled in Juilliard's Pre-College Division, studying piano with Yoheved Kaplinsky and violin with Catherine Cho. He studies composition privately with Christopher Theofanidis in New York. A former student at the Music Institute of Chicago, Tao previously studied piano with Emilio del Rosario, violin with Desiree Ruhstrat and composition with Matthew Hagle. He currently resides in New York with his parents and sister.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Conrad Tao on Sunday, November 2 at 3:00 p.m. at 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 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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Cal Performances 2008/09 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, November 2 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Recital

Conrad Tao, piano

Program: Beethoven/Piano Sonata No. 23 in F minor, Op. 57 (*Appassionata*); Tao/*canvas* (2008); Corigliano/*Etude Fantasy* for the Left Hand Alone (1976); Rachmaninoff/Six Moments Musicaux, Op. 16; Chopin/Andante spianato et Grande Polonaise brillante, Op. 22.

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