

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 19, 2008

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS JERUSALEM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
WITH MAESTRO LEON BOTSTEIN AND VIOLINIST ROBERT MCDUFFIE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, September 19, 2008—**Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra** (JSO) comes to Cal Performances for the first time **Sunday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m.** at Zellerbach Hall. Under the baton of **Leon Botstein**, the orchestra, now in its 71st year, will perform **Ernst Toch**'s ever popular *Big Ben Variations* (1934), a work that was inspired by the famous clock and commemorates his time in London; **Miklós Rózsa**'s Violin Concerto, Op. 24 (1953–54), written for the great violinist Jascha Heifetz; and **Aaron Copland**'s Symphony No. 3 (1944–46), which reflects the joyful, end-of-the-war feeling of the United States. Appearing with the orchestra is violinist **Robert McDuffie**, “a musician of probing intelligence, a violinist of authority, and a force of great vitality” (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

JERUSALEM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The **Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra** (JSO) was founded in the 1940s as the national radio orchestra and was known as the Kol Israel Orchestra. In the 1970s, the orchestra expanded and became the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Israel Broadcasting Authority. Since its inauguration, the orchestra's repertoire has been comprised of a combination of the masterpieces of the past and contemporary musical compositions. The JSO has always supported Israeli composers by commissioning and performing their works. Presenting more than 40 programs annually, the 80-member orchestra has premiered the works of Sofia Gubaidulina, Henri Dutilleux, Alfred Schnittke and others. Its current composer in residence is Betty Olivero.

“Because we are in Jerusalem,” Leon Botstein, musical director for the JSO, said in an interview in *The New York Times*, “there is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious obligation, which is one of the exciting parts about it.”

-MORE-

Through the years, some of the greatest musicians have performed with the orchestra, among them Arthur Rubinstein, Igor Markevitch, Otto Klemperer, Henryk Szeryng, Isaac Stern, Radu Lupu, Peter Schrier and Yefim Bronfman. The orchestra has often toured Europe and the United States, and has played in some of the most prestigious venues in Vienna, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Luzerne and New York. The orchestra also records regularly. Its next major recording project is a CD for the Milken Archive of Jewish Music. Since its inception, the orchestra has had six musical directors: Mendi Rodan, Lukas Foss, Gary Bertini, Lawrence Foster, David Shallon and, starting in 2003, Leon Botstein.

The JSO, which operates in the shadow of the more famous and established Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, sees itself as having two main roles: to play for the radio audience and to be a central force for culture in Jerusalem, an increasingly poor and religious city that has seen its base of secular cultural institutions begin to dwindle. “This is the kind of homegrown ensemble that music needs: professional, sincere and fully able to serve its community” (*The New York Times*).

LEON BOTSTEIN

Born in Switzerland in 1946 and raised in the United States, **Leon Botstein** started his musical education as a violinist, studying with Roman Totenberg in New York. In 1975, at the age of 23, he became the youngest college president in United States history at Franconia College in New Hampshire. Since 1975, Botstein has served as president of Bard College in New York.

Botstein serves as the music director and principal conductor of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and the American Symphony Orchestra in New York. He is also the founder and co-artistic director of the Bard Music Festival, where he recently presented the world premiere of Mark Morris’s *Romeo & Juliet, On Motifs of Shakespeare*, set to the restored music of Prokofiev.

Highlights for the upcoming season include guest engagements with NDR and a gala event with the BBC Symphony at the Royal Albert Hall. In addition, Botstein has recorded Bruno Walter’s Symphony No. 1 and Paul Dukas’s opera *Ariane et Barbe-bleue*, which he conducted recently at New York City Opera.

Other conducting assignments include Richard Strauss's *Die ägyptische Helena* with Deborah Voigt in Madrid. He led a triumphant month-long North American tour with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. His recording with the London Symphony Orchestra of Gavriil Popov's epic Symphony No. 1 and Shostakovich's Theme and Variations, Op. 3, received a Grammy Award nomination in the category of Best Orchestral Performance.

Botstein is the editor of *The Musical Quarterly* and the author of numerous articles and books. In 2004, he addressed the United Nations on "Why Music Matters" as part of Secretary-General Kofi Annan's lecture series. For his contributions to music, he has received American Academy of Arts and Letters award and Harvard University's prestigious Centennial Award, as well as the Cross of Honor, First Class, from the government of Austria.

ROBERT MCDUFFIE

Violinist **Robert McDuffie** began his training in his native Macon, Georgia, training with Robert and Henrik Schwarzenberger and continuing on to Juilliard, where he studied with Dorothy DeLay, Jens Ellerman, Robert Mann and Margaret Pardee. He has appeared as soloist with most of the major orchestras of the world, including the New York and Los Angeles philharmonics, the Chicago, San Francisco and Atlanta symphonies and the Philadelphia, Cleveland, North German Radio, Leipzig Gewandhaus and the Santa Cecilia orchestras.

His 2008–2009 season is highlighted by performances of the Rózsa Concerto and the Bernstein *Serenade* with the Jerusalem Symphony in Jerusalem, followed by a 16-city tour of the United States, including the performance in Berkeley. Future engagements include the premiere of *The American Four Seasons*, a new work by Philip Glass written for McDuffie. The North American premiere will be with the Toronto Symphony and the European premiere will be with the London Philharmonic. McDuffie will tour the work in Europe, North America and Asia, pairing it with Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. He will record both works for Telarc.

McDuffie is a Distinguished University Professor of Music at Mercer University in his hometown of Macon, Georgia. The Robert McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University had its official opening at the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year. He is the Founder and Artistic

Director of the Rome Chamber Music Festival and returns there each year. The Mayor of Rome has recently awarded Robert McDuffie the prestigious Premio Simpatia in recognition of his contribution to the cultural life of that city.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra** in concert with **Leon Botstein**, conductor and **Robert McDuffie**, violin, on **Sunday, October 26, 2008** at **7:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at \$38, \$56 and \$80. 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.

#

Cal Performances 2008/09 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC is our 2008/09 season media sponsor.

#

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

Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra

Leon Botstein, conductor

Robert McDuffie, violin

Program:

Toch/*Big Ben Variations*

Rózsa/Violin Concerto, Op. 24

Copland/Symphony No. 3

Tickets: \$38, \$56 and \$80, 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.

– Cal Performances –