

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

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**PIANIST MURRAY PERAHIA RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES
THURSDAY, MARCH 19 AT 8:00 P.M. AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, February 5, 2009—“[Combining] technical exactitude with great interpretative subtlety and a marked absence of self-conscious flamboyance” (*The Guardian*, London), American pianist **Murray Perahia** returns to Cal Performances **Thursday, March 19 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. A fixture on the concert stage for over 30 years, the Grammy Award-winner begins his program with **Johann Sebastian Bach’s** somber-turned-animated **Partita No. 6 in E minor BWV 830**, the longest of his partitas, and continues with **Ludwig van Beethoven’s** calm and serene **Piano Sonata No. 15 in D major Op. 28, “Pastoral.”** After intermission, Perahia performs **Johannes Brahms’s Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel, Op. 24**, based on George Frideric Handel’s Harpsichord Suite No. 1 in B-flat Major, HWV 434.

Murray Perahia was born in New York and began playing piano at age four. He attended Mannes College, majoring in conducting and composition. Perahia spent his summers in Marlboro, Vermont, at the Marlboro Music Festival where he collaborated with musicians such as Rudolph Serkin, Pablo Casals and the members of the Budapest Quartet. At that time, he also studied with Mieczyslaw Horszowski. In 1972, Perahia won the Leeds International Piano Competition. The following year, he gave his first concert at the Aldeburgh Festival, where he met and worked closely with Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears, accompanying the latter in many *Lieder* recitals. Perahia served as co-artistic director of the Aldeburgh Festival from 1981 to 1989.

Perahia has a wide and varied discography that spans three decades. His two latest solo recordings feature Beethoven’s Piano Sonatas, Op. 14, 26 and 28, and Bach’s Partitas 2, 3 and 4. He is the recipient of two Grammy awards—for his recordings of Frederic Chopin’s complete Etudes, Op. 10 and Op. 25, and Bach’s English Suites No. 1, 3 and 6—and numerous Grammy nominations.

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Recently, Perahia embarked upon an ambitious project to edit the complete Beethoven Sonatas for the Henle Urtext Edition. He also produced and edited numerous hours of recordings of recently discovered master classes by the legendary pianist, Alfred Cortot, which resulted in the highly acclaimed Sony CD release, *Alfred Cortot: The Master Classes*.

Perahia is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, and he holds an honorary doctorate from Leeds University. In 2004, he was awarded an honorary KBE (Knight Commander) by Her Majesty The Queen, in recognition of his outstanding service to music. This season, Perahia was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the London Jewish Cultural Centre.

“[S]uperbly and analytical, gorgeously romantic and full of spontaneous surprises...[Perahia’s] steady artistic development from purring elegance—which is still there when he needs it—to a ferocious leonine roar marks him as a pianist who invests great music with [not only] his own unmistakable personality but with absolute integrity” (*Washington Post*).

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Murray Perahia** on **Thursday, March 19** at **8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$34.00**, **\$48.00** and **\$62.00**. 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 \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 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

Thursday, March 19 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Recital

Murray Perahia, piano

Program:

Bach/Partita No. 6 in E minor, BWV 830

Beethoven/Piano Sonata No. 15 in D major, Op. 28, "Pastoral"

Brahms/Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel, Op. 24

Tickets: \$34.00, \$48.00 and \$62.00, 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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