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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 18, 2008

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF  
PIANIST SARAH CAHILL'S *A SWEETER MUSIC*  
FEATURING NEW COMPOSITIONS BY 11 ARTISTS, INCLUDING  
TERRY RILEY, FREDERIC RZEWSKI, PAULINE OLIVEROS AND  
THE RESIDENTS ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 AT 3:00 P.M. AT HERTZ HALL**

**A roundtable discussion titled *Music of Peace: Can Music Be Political?* featuring Cahill, composers Larry Polansky, Preben Antonsen and Jerome Kitzke, among others, will be held on Friday, January 23 at 6:00 p.m. at Wheeler Auditorium**

BERKELEY, December 18, 2008—**Sarah Cahill** performs *A Sweeter Music*, a solo piano concert of new music from eleven of today's most influential contemporary composers on **Sunday, January 25 at 3:00 p.m.** at Hertz Hall. Cahill, the "reigning diva of avant-garde pianism" (*San Francisco Chronicle*), commissioned works from **Terry Riley, Frederic Rzewski, Yoko Ono, Larry Polansky, Jerome Kitzke, Pauline Oliveros, The Residents, Mamoru Fujieda, Carl Stone** and **Peter Garland**. The idea for the concert grew out of Cahill's frustration over the Iraq war. While practicing Rzewski's 1979 version of the antiwar song "Down by the Riverside," Cahill reflected on how "certain works of art, like Britten's 'War Requiem' or Picasso's 'Guernica,' respond to specific events but continue to resonate with audiences today and into the future." She immediately began calling composers and asking them to write new works on the theme of peace. The title *A Sweeter Music* comes from Martin Luther King's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech: "We must see that peace represents a sweeter music, a cosmic melody that is far superior to the discord of war." The Emmy Award-winning video artist **John Sanborn**, Cahill's husband, has created a multi-paneled video installation for the concert. Eighteen composers have been commissioned with eleven composers represented in the world premiere. After the Berkeley concert, Cahill will tour the production nationally and then to Europe and Asia.

Cahill, Sanborn and *A Sweeter Music* composers Larry Polansky, Preben Antonsen and Jerome Kitzke, among others, will hold a roundtable discussion titled *Music of Peace: Can Music Be Political?* on Friday, January 23 at 6:00 p.m. at Wheeler Auditorium. This event is free and open to the public and is included in UC Berkeley's Department of Music's Composer Colloquium.

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## SARAH CAHILL

**Sarah Cahill**, praised by the *The Village Voice* for “her phenomenal technique, her instinctive command of recent aesthetics, and quite possibly the most interesting repertoire of any pianist around,” specializes in new American music as well as the American experimental tradition. She has commissioned, premiered and recorded numerous compositions for solo piano. Many composers have dedicated music to her including John Adams, Terry Riley, Frederic Rzewski, Pauline Oliveros and Evan Ziporyn. She has also premiered pieces by Lou Harrison, Julia Wolfe, Ingram Marshall, Toshi Ichiyanagi, Ursula Mamlok, George Lewis, Leo Ornstein and many others. She is “as tenacious and committed an advocate as any composer could dream of” (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

Cahill is particularly fascinated by how the early 20th-century American modernists have influenced composers working today. She has explored these musical lineages in numerous concert programs, the most ambitious being a three-day festival celebrating the centennial of Henry Cowell in 1997 as part of Cal Performances. For the 2001 centennial of pianist and composer Ruth Crawford Seeger, Cahill commissioned seven composers, all women, to write short homage pieces, which she has performed at Merkin Hall, Dartmouth College, the Cincinnati Conservatory and at Hampshire College in Amherst. After the January premiere at Cal Performances, *A Sweeter Music*, in collaboration with video artist John Sanborn, will be featured on the New Sounds Live at Merkin Hall in New York in March 2009, with subsequent performances at Rothko Chapel in Houston, the Chicago Cultural Center, and other venues across the country. Cahill enjoys working closely with composers, musicologists and scholars to prepare scores for performance.

She has performed at the Miller Theatre and Cooper Union in New York, the Other Minds Festival, Pacific Crossings Festival in Tokyo, Spoleto Festival USA, and Nuovi Spazi Musicali festival in Rome. Cahill and pianist Joseph Kubera appear frequently as a duo; they premiered a set of four-hand pieces by Terry Riley at UCLA’s Royce Hall, and have performed the works at the Triptych Festival in Scotland and Roulette in New York.

Most of Cahill’s albums are on the New Albion label. She has also recorded for Other Minds, Tzadik, CRI, New World, Albany, Cold Blue and Artifact labels. Her radio show, *Then & Now*, can be heard every Sunday evening from 8 to 10 pm on KALW, 91.7 FM.

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To view Cal Performances' Video Program Note of Cahill talking about and performing excerpts from Frederick Rzewski's version of "Down by the River Side," go to [http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu/presents/media/2006/edge\\_fest/Rzewski\\_Cahill\\_High.mov](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu/presents/media/2006/edge_fest/Rzewski_Cahill_High.mov).

### THE ARTISTS

A list of the commissioned composers reads like a who's who of contemporary music. Cahill chose composers whose work she admired and who have been antiwar activists, such as **Terry Riley**, who was arrested for protesting the Iraq war, and **Yoko Ono**, who has been a voice for peace during her entire career. **Frederic Rzewski's** most famous compositions have been protests against oppressive regimes. The works run from powerful antiwar statements such as *Dar al-Harb: House of War*, composed by 17-year-old Berkeleyan **Preben Antonsen** as a tribute to his cousin, who served in Iraq, to Terry Riley's gentle rag *Be Kind to One Another*, a song that has become a favorite of his grandchildren.

The works offer a wide range of expression from the use of American Sign Language in excerpts from **Larry Polansky's** *B'midbar* to **Pauline Oliveros's** *A New Indigo Peace* that asks the audience to sing an anthem for peace (printed in the program) while accompanied by Cahill performing blues patterns reminiscent of Oliveros's Texas childhood. Cahill will also accompany one of the members of **The Residents** (pre-recorded) singing *drum no fife*, the first work the purposefully anonymous San Francisco ensemble has ever written for another artist. **Peter Garland's** four-movement work was inspired by four ancient poems one of which begins "The nation is ruined, but mountains and rivers remain" by the eighth century Chinese poet Tu Fu.

**Jerome Kitzke**, a New York composer whose work often incorporates aspects of theatricality and spoken word, uses drumming and tapping on the the piano, breathing, whistling and speaking in his contribution. Three texts are quoted: Walt Whitman's "Look Down Fair Moon" and "Reconciliation"—both from his poetic account of the Civil War, called *Drum Taps*—and Rumi's "There Is a Field." John Sanborn has created video using Mathew Brady's stunning Civil War photographs.

The final two composers are Tokyo-based. **Carl Stone** is a pioneer in electroacoustic music whose composition titled *Sonamu* includes the text “Subete no buki o gakki ni (Turn all weapons into musical instruments).” **Mamoru Fujieda**’s *The Olive Branch Speaks* is based on the melodic patterns that are extracted from minute electrical currents flowing through a living organism, in this case an olive tree that he tends in his Tokyo apartment; the composition is part of his series *Patterns of Plants*.

Hailed as “the acknowledged genius in the field” (*Vogue*), **John Sanborn** is a video artist and director whose works have been shown at major museums around the world, including the Whitney Museum; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Prado, Madrid; the Centre Pompidou, Paris; the Tate Gallery, London; and the Seibu Museum, Tokyo. His video works have been widely broadcast, including 16 half-hour programs for PBS featuring collaborations with Bill T. Jones, Philip Glass, Twyla Tharp, The Residents and David Gordon. A dance work created for *Great Performances* starring Mikhail Baryshnikov and directed by Sanborn won three Emmy Awards. Sanborn has also directed over 30 music videos, with such artists as Nile Rodgers, Sammy Hagar, Philip Glass, Tangerine Dream, Grace Jones, King Crimson and Van Halen. His video self-portrait *Quirky*, hosted by Buck Henry, was purchased for broadcast on PBS’s *The Independents*. He was Vice President and Chief Creative Officer at Comedy Central in the early 2000s, for which he created an acclaimed surreal sitcom called *Frank Leaves for the Orient*. His 2002 video *MMI* was shown at the Tribeca, London, Dallas and Mill Valley film festivals, and his recent videos and installations have been shown at the VideoFormes Festival in Clermont-Ferrand, France, the beTween Festival in England and the Mill Valley and Dallas film festivals.

Cahill and Sanborn are longtime residents of Berkeley.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Sarah Cahill’s *A Sweeter Music* on Sunday, January 25 at 3:00 p.m. at Hertz Hall** are priced at **\$38.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://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 -MORE-

Performances web site at [www.calperformances.org](http://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**

**Friday, January 23 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**

**Roundtable Discussion**

**Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley Campus**

Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave, Berkeley

**Program:** A discussion will be held by pianist Sarah Cahill, video artist John Sanborn and *Sweeter Music* composers Larry Polansky, Preben Antonsen and Jerome Kitzke, among others, titled *Music of Peace: Can Music Be Political?* on Friday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m. at Wheeler Auditorium. This event is free and open to the public.

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**Sunday, January 25 at 3:00 p.m.**

***20<sup>th</sup> Century Music & Beyond***

***A Sweeter Music***

**Sarah Cahill**, piano

**John Sanborn**, video artist

**Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**

Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

**Program:**

Riley/ *Be Kind to One Another*

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Rzewski/ *Peace Dances*  
Antonsen/ *Dar al-Harb: House of War*  
Oliveros/ *A New Indigo Peace*  
Ono/ *Toning*  
Polansky/ excerpts from *B'midbar*  
Garland/ *After the Wars*  
Kitzke/ *There is a Field*  
The Residents/ *drum no fife*  
Fujieda/ *The Olive Branch Speaks*  
Stone/ *Sonamu*

**Tickets:** \$38.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

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