

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 24, 2009

**LEGENDARY PIANIST ALFRED BRENDEL GIVES A
LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION *ON CHARACTER IN MUSIC*
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 AT 8:00 P.M. AT WHEELER AUDITORIUM**

BERKELEY, September 24, 2009—One of the world’s most thoughtful interpreters of classical music, pianist **Alfred Brendel** returns to Cal Performances on **Friday, October 30 at 8:00 p.m.** for the first time since he retired from the concert platform in 2008. Brendel performed on stage for 60 years, moving audiences with the emotional and intellectual depths of the music he performed. Now “Britain’s greatest living pianist” (*The Guardian, London*), also a gifted writer, speaker and comic poet, embarks on a new venture, imparting to audiences his remarkable knowledge and insights about music. Brendel’s lecture and demonstration, part of Cal Performances’ Strictly Speaking series, is titled *On Character in Music* and will include excerpts from **Ludwig van Beethoven**’s piano sonatas.

Alfred Brendel is well versed in the fields of literature, language, architecture, films and music. In addition to his latest books, *Alfred Brendel on Music* and *Ausgerechnet Ich* (“Me of All People”), he has published two collections of articles, lectures and essays. He is a frequent contributor to *The New York Review of Books*, having written articles on Mozart, Liszt and Schoenberg. His volumes of poetry include *One Finger Too Many*, published in the United States by Random House, and he is the subject of the BBC documentary *Alfred Brendel - Man and Mask*.

Brendel was born in Austria and spent the majority of his childhood traveling throughout Yugoslavia and Austria, studying with many different piano instructors. In his teens he attended the Graz Conservatory as a music student, and also showed talent in the areas of painting and composition. Although his artistic interests as a young man did not focus solely on music, winning the prestigious Busoni Piano Competition in Italy launched his career as a performing musician. He quickly established a reputation of unusual integrity and insight into the music of

-MORE-

Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schumann and Schubert, as well as the works of Liszt and several 20th century composers.

Established as one of the premier classical pianists of the day, Brendel has had a long and lustrous career. His tours have included orchestral concerts and solo recitals throughout Europe, as well as his annual North American tour featuring solo recitals in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Vancouver and Berkeley, among others. On January 27, 2006, Brendel marked the 250th Mozart anniversary with a special performance of Mozart's final piano concerto with the Berlin Philharmonic and Simon Rattle at Carnegie Hall, which they performed together thereafter with the Philadelphia Orchestra. In recent seasons he has performed with the Boston Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Cleveland Orchestra.

One of the most prolific recording artists of all time, Brendel has recorded for the Philips Classics label for over 30 years. He is the first pianist to have recorded all of Beethoven's piano compositions and one of the few to have recorded the complete Mozart piano concertos. Recent releases include the complete Beethoven cello sonatas with his son Adrian Brendel; a live recording of Schubert sonatas; the five Beethoven piano concertos with Simon Rattle and the Vienna Philharmonic; the Schumann and Schoenberg piano concertos; Mozart sonatas and the complete Beethoven bagatelles; and works by Haydn, Schubert and Liszt recorded live in Salzburg. He has won many prizes for his recordings, notably the Grand Prix du Disque, the Japan Record Academy Award, *Gramophone* magazine's "Critics' Choice," the Grand Prix de l'Académie du disque français, the Edison Prize, and the British Music Trades Association Prize.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Alfred Brendel**, on **Friday, October 30, 2009** at **8:00 p.m.** in **Wheeler Auditorium** are priced at **\$32.00**. 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.

-MORE-

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.

#

Cal Performances 2009/10 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC is our 2009/10 season media sponsor.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, October 30 at 8:00 p.m.

Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Strictly Speaking

Alfred Brendel

On Character in Music

Program: Retired after 60 years on the concert stage, legendary pianist Alfred Brendel will discuss the music of Beethoven and perform excerpts from Beethoven's sonatas.

Tickets: \$32.00, 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.

– Cal Performances –