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**THE BRENTANO STRING QUARTET COMES TO HERTZ HALL ON
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, AT 3:00 P.M.**

***Sightlines:* Pre-concert talk by John Prescott, UC Berkeley musicologist,
Sunday, November 8, 2:00–2:30 p.m., Hertz Hall**

BERKELEY, October 5, 2009—The **Brentano String Quartet**, renowned for its “passionate, uninhibited and spellbinding” performances (*London Independent*), comes to **Hertz Hall Sunday, November 8, at 3:00 p.m.** Having toured throughout the world, the group, comprising **Mark Steinberg** (violin), **Serena Canin** (violin), **Misha Amory** (viola) and **Nina Maria Lee** (cello), has gained recognition for its technical brilliance and musical insight. The ensemble is a particular favorite with Cal Performances audiences. For its November 8 concert, the Brentano will play **Franz Schubert’s** String Quartet No. 12 in C minor, D. 703 (“Quartettsatz”); the String Quartet No. 3 by English composer **Benjamin Britten**; and Schubert’s String Quartet in G major, Op. 161 (D. 887).

A ***Sightlines*** pre-performance talk will be given by John Prescott on Sunday, November 8, from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. in Hertz Hall. This talk is free to all event ticket holders.

THE PROGRAM

For its Cal Performances outing, the Brentano String Quartet opens with Schubert’s String Quartet No. 12 in C minor, D. 703, a late work widely known as “Quartettsatz” because only a single movement of the piece was ever completed. The style of the “Quartettsatz” relates to Schubert’s lieder, pulsating with dramatic swells. The themes of the next piece, Britten’s String Quartet No. 3, obliquely connect to Britten’s opera *Death in Venice* and briefly reuse some of the opera’s material. This was Britten’s last quartet, written very close to his death, and it ends, appropriately, on a somber note. The final work on the program is Schubert’s light, fleeting String Quartet in G major, Op. 161 (D. 887), which features a distinctive dotted rhythm of alternating major and minor chords throughout.

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BRENTANO STRING QUARTET

The **Brentano String Quartet** has garnered a worldwide following and a reputation for thoughtful, learned performance since its founding in 1992. It has been widely praised in the press as “surely one of the best” (*Cleveland Plain Dealer*) and “a splendid quartet” (*The Times of London*), and for having a “luxuriously warm sound” (*The New York Times*). In addition to performing the standard quartet repertoire, the ensemble has a strong interest in both very old and very new music. It has performed many works pre-dating the string quartet as a medium, including Gesualdo’s madrigals, Purcell’s fantasias and Josquin’s secular vocal works. The quartet has also championed and commissioned works by important contemporary composers, including Elliott Carter, Charles Wuorinen, Chou Wen-chung, Steven Mackey, Bruce Adophe, David Horne and Gabriela Frank. The group takes its name from Antonie Brentano, considered by many to be Beethoven’s “Immortal Beloved”—the intended recipient of his famous confession of love.

The Brentano String Quartet is well traveled, having performed all over the United States and Canada, throughout Europe, and in Japan and Australia. A Cal Performances favorite, last spring it performed the eagerly anticipated West Coast Premiere of Charles Wuorinen’s Piano Quintet No. 2, joined by pianist Peter Serkin, to much acclaim. It has graced stages in Carnegie Hall, the Library of Congress, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, the Sydney Opera House and many other famed venues. Brentano was the quartet-in-residence at London’s Wigmore Hall for the 2000–2001 season, and has served as resident string quartet at Princeton University since 1999. For its 10th anniversary in 2002, it commissioned 10 composers to write companion pieces for selections from Bach’s *The Art of Fugue*. The group has also collaborated with soprano Jessye Norman and pianists Richard Goode and Mitsuko Uchida. The Brentano String Quartet records for AEON and its recordings are distributed by Harmonia Mundi USA.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Brentano String Quartet**, on **Sunday, November 8 at 3:00 p.m.** and in **Hertz Hall** are priced at **\$48.00**. 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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Cal Performances 2009/10 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, November 8 from 2–2:30 p.m.

Sightlines

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

Brentano String Quartet pre-concert talk will be given by John Prescott, UC Berkeley musicologist. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with artists and scholars, designed to enrich the concertgoer's experience. These events are free to ticketholders.

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Sunday, November 8 at 3:00 p.m.

Chamber Music.

Brentano String Quartet

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

Program:

Schubert/"Quartettsatz" in C minor, D. 703 and Quartet in G major, Op. 161 (D. 887)

Britten/Quartet No. 3

Tickets: \$48.00, 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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