

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

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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING  
SOPRANO CHRISTINE BREWER IN RECITAL  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 AT 3:00 P.M. AT HERTZ HALL**

**BERKELEY, August 20, 2009**—With a voice that is “big but pure, golden of tone, flawlessly produced and capable of great subtleties” (*Musical America*), American soprano **Christine Brewer** comes to Hertz Hall **Sunday, September 27 at 3:00 p.m.** Her artistry combined with a vibrant personality makes her reminiscent of the great sopranos of the past. “A diva. The real, rare, wondrous thing” (*Opera*). Ready to take the stage again after knee injury that forced her to withdraw from the *Ring* cycle at the Metropolitan Opera last spring, Brewer performs a versatile program in both German and English. The evening’s wide-ranging repertoire begins with Austrian composer Alban Berg’s romantic and impressionistic *Sieben frühe Lieder* (Seven Early Songs) and Richard Strauss’s “Ich liebe dich”, “Breit’ uber mein Haupt” and “Befreit”, based on a poem about a loving couple. After intermission, Brewer showcases her humor and sense of self with Benjamin Britten’s witty and high-spirited four *Cabaret Songs* and “The Salley Gardens”; Roger Quilter’s “Ye Banks and Braes”; Herbert Hughes’ “The Leprechaun”; and *Echoes of Nightingales*, a series of six songs composed by various composers. She will be accompanied, as is often the case, by pianist **Craig Rutenberg**.

**CHRISTINE BREWER**

**Christina Brewer** was born and raised in the Mississippi River town of Grand Tower, Illinois and was a music teacher for several years before embarking on a professional singing career. She was recently named one of the top 20 sopranos of the 20th century by the BBC. She is most famous for her roles by Wagner, Strauss and Britten. 2009-10 season highlights include performances of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and James Levine, the New World Symphony and Michael Tilson Thomas, and the Dallas Symphony with Jaap van Zweden; Britten’s *War Requiem* with the Toronto Symphony, and excerpts from Wagner operas with the BBC Philharmonic with Donald Runnicles, and many more. In addition to premiering a new work by David Carlson with the Marin Symphony, Brewer will also sing

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Strauss's *Four Last Songs* with Jeffrey Kahane and the Colorado Symphony, as well as Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with the New York Philharmonic.

On the opera stage, Brewer is highly regarded for her striking portrayal of the title role in Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, which she has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, Opéra de Lyon, Théâtre du Châtelet, the Santa Fe Opera, the English National Opera and the Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Garnering critical acclaim with each role, she has performed Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* at the San Francisco Opera, Gluck's *Alceste* with the Santa Fe Opera, the Dyer's Wife in Strauss's *Die Frau Ohne Schatten* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Paris Opera, and Lady Billows in Britten's *Albert Herring* at the Santa Fe Opera. With her "beautiful sound and her commanding stage presence she elevates her character's laments to the highest plane" (*Chicago Sun-Times*). Brewer is also celebrated for her work on lesser known operas such as the title roles in Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride* with the Edinburgh Festival, the Rio de Janeiro Opera and Madrid Opera and Strauss's *Die ägyptische Helena* with the Santa Fe Opera. A stunning recitalist, in addition to many appearances at Carnegie and Wigmore halls, she has graced Lincoln Center's "Art of the Song" series at Alice Tully Hall. Other appearances include the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Spivey Hall in Georgia and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

Brewer has worked with many of the most notable conductors of our day including Pierre Boulez, James Conlon, Sir Colin Davis, Christoph von Dohnányi, Christoph Eschenbach, Valery Gergiev, Lorin Maazel, Michael Tilson Thomas and more. Typical of her versatility, she has also been invited to perform in special engagements such as the re-opening of Covent Garden with Plácido Domingo for TRH Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, a concert of Handel with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and a gala performance of Górecki's Symphony No. 3 with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and long-time collaborator Donald Runnicles. Brewer's recordings include a contribution to Hyperion's prestigious Schubert series with pianist Graham Johnson; the Janáček *Glagolitic Mass* and Dvořák *Te Deum* with Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (Telarc); Dvořák *Stabat Mater* (Naxos); and two recital recordings entitled "Saint Louis Woman" and "Music for a While," produced and released by the Opera Theatre of St. Louis.

Pianist **Craig Rutenberg**, “whose playing ranged from sterling directness to expansive beauty” (*San Francisco Chronicle*), has collaborated with many of the world’s greatest vocalists and is recognized as one of the most distinguished accompanists on the stage today. Having studied piano and interpretation with John Wustman, Geoffrey Parsons, Pierre Bernac and Miriam Solovieff, Rutenberg has appeared in recital with Denyce Graves, Sumi Jo, Harolyn Blackwell, Susanne Mentzer, Frederica von Stade, Angelika Kirchschrager and Dawn Upshaw, and frequently with Thomas Hampson, Ben Heppner and Jerry Hadley as well as Olaf Baer, Simon Keenlyside and Stanford Olsen. He has performed with Hampson at the White House under the Clinton administration.

Currently Head of Music Administration at the Metropolitan Opera, Rutenberg is also Guest Coach at Operahögskolan in Stockholm and at Operan in Gothenburg. He regularly coaches and gives master classes at the Chicago Lyric Opera for American Artists, the Pittsburgh Opera Center, Chicago Opera Theatre and the Vancouver Opera as well as the training programs at the Washington Opera and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. .

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Christine Brewer’s** concert on **Sunday, September 27, 2009**, at **3:00 p.m.** at **Hertz Hall** are priced at **\$46.00**. 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 \$5.00 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](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 \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID

required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 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**

**Sunday, September 27 at 3:00 p.m.**

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

*Recital*

**Christine Brewer**, soprano

**Craig Rutenberg**, piano

**Program:**

Berg/*Sieben frühe Lieder*: “Nacht,” “Schilfield,” “Die Nachtigall,” “Traumgekrönt,” “Im Zimmer,” “Liebesode” and “Sommertage”

Strauss/ “Ich liebe dich”; “Breit’ uber mein Haupt” and “Befreit”

Britten/ *Cabaret Songs*: “Calypso,” “Tell me the Truth About Love,” “Johnny” and “Funeral Blues”; “The Salley Gardens”

Quilter/ “Ye Banks and Braes”

Hughes/ “The Leprechaun”

Various Composers/*Echoes of Nightingales*: “Sing to Me, Sing,” “Night,” “Hickory Hill,” “Love went a’riding,” “If I Could Tell You” and “Hills”

**Tickets:** \$46.00, 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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