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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING
PIANIST GARRICK OHLSSON IN AN ALL-CHOPIN RECITAL
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 AT 3:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, November 25, 2009—American piano virtuoso **Garrick Ohlsson**, known for his “flawless precision and delicacy” (*Globe & Mail*, Toronto), comes to Cal Performances **Sunday, January 10 at 3:00 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall**. Ohlsson, winner of the 2008 Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Soloist Performance, is established worldwide for his distinguished interpretive and technical prowess. Regarded as one of the world’s leading authorities on the music of **Frédéric Chopin**, Ohlsson is currently touring an all-Chopin program in recognition of the bicentenary of the composer’s birth. “He’s a veteran virtuoso finding new trails on long-studied musical maps, seeking hidden gems or long-forgotten truths” (*Fort Worth Star Telegram*). For the Berkeley recital, Ohlsson will perform the Impromptu in F-sharp major, Op. 36; the Ballade in A-flat major, Op. 47; an unpredictable and at times almost improvisatory piece, the Fantasy in F minor, Op. #49; the famous Two Nocturnes, Op. 27 (No. 1 in C-sharp minor and No. 2 in D-flat major), two of Chopin’s most popular works; the Scherzo in C-sharp minor, Op. 39; and Twenty-four Preludes, Op. #28, a set of short pieces for the piano.

A native of White Plains, New York, Ohlsson began his piano studies at the age of eight, and five years later was accepted into The Juilliard School. Ohlsson won prizes at the 1966 Busoni Competition in Italy and 1968 Montréal Piano Competition, but it was his gold medal at the 1970 Chopin International Piano Competition that earned him broader recognition. He was the first American to ever win the prize. After this triumph, Ohlsson’s career took off, and he began to establish himself worldwide as one of the finest pianists of his generation. He has since made nearly a dozen tours through Chopin’s birth country of Poland. In addition to being a master of the works of Chopin, Ohlsson commands an enormous repertoire and is noted for his performances of the works of Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert. His repertoire of 80 concertos is unusually wide and eclectic, ranging from Haydn and Mozart to works of the 21st century. In

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1994, Ohlsson was awarded the Avery Fisher Prize and, in 1998, received the University Musical Society Distinguished Artist Award.

Ohlsson regularly performs with the world's leading chamber groups, including the Takács, Cleveland, Emerson and Tokyo string quartets. During Cal Performances' 2007–2008 season, Ohlsson joined talents with pianist Yoko Nozaki and the Mark Morris Dance Group for the critically acclaimed *Mozart Dances*. Audience response to a recent “ravishing” Garrick Ohlsson encore was described as “something that sounded like primal scream therapy...he toyed with the rhythm in a manner both free and disciplined; hitherto hidden voices sang from within the textures. The waltz sparkled and swooned, and then it was primal scream time all over again” (*The Boston Globe*).

Ohlsson's Chopin series will culminate at the Lincoln Center in winter 2010 after the Berkeley and La Jolla, California, concerts. Other highlights of his 2009–2010 season include Bohuslav Martinů's rarely performed Piano Concerto No. 4 with the New York Philharmonic and BBC Scottish Symphony and appearances with the San Francisco, Houston, Atlanta, Vancouver, Indianapolis, San Diego, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and Baltimore symphony orchestras. This March, Ohlsson will perform a solo recital at special gala concert at Chopin's birth house in Warsaw. Ohlsson additionally plans to make his debut in Russia during the St. Petersburg winter festival. He makes his home in San Francisco.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for pianist **Garrick Ohlsson** on **Sunday, January 10** at **3:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$34.00**, **\$46.00** and **\$56.00**. 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 three 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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Funded by the Koret Foundation, this performance is part of Cal Performances' 2009-10 Koret Recital Series, which brings world-class artists to our community.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, January 10 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Recital

Garrick Ohlsson, piano

Program:

Chopin/Impromptu in F-sharp major, Op. 36; Ballade in A-flat major, Op. 47; Fantasy in F minor, Op. #49; Two Nocturnes, Op. 27 (No. 1 in C-sharp minor and No. 2 in D-flat major); Scherzo in C-sharp minor, Op. 39; Twenty-four Preludes, Op. #28

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