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**VIOLINIST JOSHUA BELL RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES WITH
A PROGRAM OF BACH, GRIEG, SCHUMANN AND RAVEL ON
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 AT 3:00 P.M. AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, January 8, 2010—*Musical America's* 2010 Instrumentalist of the Year, violinist **Joshua Bell** returns to Cal Performances on **Sunday, February 21 at 3:00 p.m.** For over two decades, the violinist has enchanted audiences worldwide with his signature musicality that encompasses multiple music genres and avenues of performance. "Bell's tone is a thing of rare beauty, and he plays with such warmth and refinement that you wish the phrases would last longer" (*Seattle Times*). Displaying a wide range of appeal in and outside of the classical arena, Bell's numerous recognitions vary from being named *Billboard's* 2004 Classical Artist of the Year to one of *People Magazine's* 50 Most Beautiful People. Bell last appeared at Zellerbach Hall in 2008 with frequent musical collaborator pianist **Jeremy Denk**, who will once again perform with him.

PROGRAM

Joshua Bell and Jeremy Denk will perform an evening of sonatas for violin and piano from a Baroque master to a French impressionist. The duo opens with **Johann Sebastian Bach's** Violin Sonata No. 4 in C minor, a forward-looking and innovative sonata of the six that Bach wrote for violin and keyboard. Norwegian composer **Edvard Grieg's** Sonata No. 3 for Violin and Piano in C minor, Op. 45, the most popular of Grieg's three sonatas, follows. Employing cutting-edge technology, Bell recorded the sonata for his latest album, *At Home with Friends*, in a Zenph re-performance with virtuoso pianist and composer Serge Rachmaninoff, carefully studying the technique of Fritz Kreisler, Rachmaninoff's original partner.

Following intermission, Bell and Denk return with **Robert Schumann's** Sonata No. 1 for Violin and Piano in A minor, Op. 105, a tragic and turbulent work written just as mental illness began to take its toll on the great Romantic's life and music. The duo closes with **Maurice Ravel's** Sonata for Violin and Piano, a later work which dually shows Ravel's experimental and

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impressionistic touches, notably in the second movement entitled “Blues: Moderato.” Completed in four years due to illness, Ravel said of his last chamber work: “In the writing of the sonata for violin and piano, two fundamentally incompatible instruments, I assumed the task, far from bringing their differences into equilibrium, of emphasizing their irreconcilability through their independence.”

JOSHUA BELL

Joshua Bell has captured the public’s imagination like few other classical violinists of his time. Named the 2007 Avery Fisher Prize-winning Instrumentalist of the Year, Bell celebrates the 2009–2010 season with the release of *Joshua Bell at Home with Friends*, a personal collection of instrumental and vocal duets covering a world of music featuring collaborations with Chris Botti, Sting, Josh Groban, Kristin Chenoweth, Regina Spektor, Anoushka Shankar, Marvin Hamlisch and Tiempo Libre, among others. The album’s eclectic repertoire ranges from a 16th-century love song to collaborations with popular musicians to a duet with Rachmaninoff himself on the piano in Grieg’s violin sonata (thanks to a new recording technology).

Highlights of Bell’s 2009–2010 season include a performance at the Hollywood Bowl; a return to the BBC Proms at Royal Albert Hall; engagements with the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony and the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center; and appearances at Verbier, Mostly Mozart, Salzburg, Tanglewood and Gstaad festivals, among others. The New Year will see Bell on a European and United States recital tour that includes Carnegie Hall, Disney Hall, Wigmore Hall in London and, of course, the Cal Performances concert; a performance for the World Economic Forum, and dates in Paris, Budapest, Madrid, Athens, Zurich and Istanbul, as well as a tour to Asia with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. *Live from Lincoln Center: Joshua Bell with Friend @ The Penthouse* will air nationally on PBS stations January 21.

As an exclusive Sony Classical artist, Bell has made critically acclaimed recordings of the concertos of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Sibelius and Goldmark, as well as the Grammy Award-winning concerto by Nicholas Maw. His Grammy-nominated *Gershwin Fantasy*

premiered a new work for violin and orchestra based on themes from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. Its success led to an all-Bernstein recording (also a Grammy nominee) that included the premiere of the *West Side Story Suite* as well as a new recording of the composer's *Serenade*. Recent recordings include the soundtracks for *Angels & Demons* and *Defiance*, Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, the *Red Violin* Concerto by John Corigliano, the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the Berlin Philharmonic, *The Essential Joshua Bell*, *Voice of the Violin* and *Romance of the Violin*, which *Billboard* named the 2004 Classical CD of the Year and Bell the Classical Artist of the Year. Additional performances for Sony Classical film soundtracks include the Classical Brit-nominated *Ladies in Lavender* and the Academy Award-winning film *Iris*, in an original score by James Horner.

Bell's popularity extends to mainstream media, with numerous television and film appearances. Bell appeared as himself in the film *Music of the Heart* starring Meryl Streep, and millions of people have seen him on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *The Tonight Show* and the PBS programs *Sesame Street* and *Great Performances*.

Born and raised in Indiana, Bell received his first violin at age four, when his parents noticed him plucking tunes with rubber bands he had stretched around the handles of his dresser drawers. Under the tutelage of his teacher and mentor Josef Gingold, Bell made his debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra under the baton of Riccardo Muti at age 14. Numerous awards and distinctions have followed in the years since, within and outside of his home state. Bell has been honored with a Distinguished Alumni Service Award from his *alma mater*, Indiana University, named an "Indiana Living Legend," and received the Indiana Governor's Arts Award. A favorite at the Hollywood Bowl, Bell was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2005. Bell was the only United States musician named by the World Economic Forum as one of 250 Young Global Leaders.

Bell owns and plays the storied 1713 Gibson ex-Huberman Stradivarius, which he acquired in 2001.

JEREMY DENK

American pianist **Jeremy Denk** has steadily built a name as one of today's most compelling young artists, with an unusually broad repertoire, from standard works of the 18th and 19th centuries to such 20th century masters such as Ives, Ligeti, Lutosławski and Messiaen, and further to new works by the leading composers of today. Praised for his "intelligence, lyricism and transparency that illuminate[s] everything he touch[es]" (*The Washington Post*), Denk has appeared as soloist with many major orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the St. Louis Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, Philharmonia of London, the Dallas Symphony and the Houston Symphony.

It was at the 2004 Spoleto Festival that Denk met and performed with violinist Joshua Bell, the first of over 80 performances together, to date. A Philadelphia reviewer noted their "equal partnership, with no upstaging." He and Bell recently recorded the Corigliano Violin Sonata for Sony Classical.

Denk keeps a weblog titled think denk (jeremydenk.net/blog), a mixture of musical and extramusical thoughts collected from touring, practicing and otherwise unrelated experiences, as well as detailed musical analyses and essays. Music critic Alex Ross describes the pianist as "a superb musician who writes with arresting sensitivity and with...a voice...sophisticated on the one hand, informal on the other, immediate in impact. Blogs such as this put a human face on an alien culture."

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Joshua Bell**, on **Sunday, February 21, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$36.00, \$46.00, \$68.00 and \$86.00**. 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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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, February 21 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Special Event

Joshua Bell, violin
Jeremy Denk, piano

Program:

Bach/Violin Sonata No. 4 in C minor
Grieg/Sonata No. 3 for Violin and Piano in C minor, Op. 45
Schumann/Sonata No. 1 for Violin and Piano in A minor, Op. 105
Ravel/Sonata for Violin and Piano

Tickets: \$36.00, \$46.00, \$68.00 and \$86.00 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.

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