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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 13,2010

**MUSICIAN AND STORYTELLER LAURIE ANDERSON
BRINGS HER NEW WORK *DELUSION* TO CAL PERFORMANCES
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 7 & 8 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, April 13, 2010—Hailed as “a wizard behind a curtain, without the curtain” (*The New York Times*), avant-garde musician and master storyteller **Laurie Anderson** brings her latest solo multimedia piece, *Delusion*, to Cal Performances’ **Zellerbach Hall** on **Friday and Saturday, May 7 and 8, at 8:00 p.m.** The *Georgia Straight* describes *Delusion* as “smart, funny, emotionally engaging, and flat-out beautiful—in short, everything you’d expect from an artist of Anderson’s stature and reputation.” Providing instrumental accompaniment onstage to Anderson’s electronically augmented violin will be **Colin Stetson** (baritone saxophone) and **Eyvind Kang** (viola). Cal Performances, which has hosted Anderson regularly since the early 1990s and co-commissioned the last four works she has brought to Berkeley, is a co-commissioner of *Delusion*.

DELUSION

“For a period of time I was having a dream festival every night. They were such *odd* stories,” Laurie Anderson told the *CBC News* of *Delusion*, her newest evening-length work. “I was writing them down for a while, and they found their place in *Delusion*.” Combining violin, electronic puppetry, music and visuals and employing a series of altered voices and imaginary guests, Anderson tells a complex story about longing, memory and identity.

At the heart of *Delusion* is the pleasure of language and a fear that the world is made entirely of words. “My first love really is words,” says Anderson. Conceived as a series of short mystery plays inspired by the breadth of Honoré de Balzac, Yasujiro Ozu and Laurence Sterne, *Delusion* jumps between the everyday and the mythic. The loosely-related vignettes include meditation on family history; Anderson’s trademark sociopolitical commentary, as told by Fenway Bergamot, Anderson’s “audio drag” persona; and a dream sequence in which Anderson gives birth to her dog.

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The *Georgia Straight* praised *Delusion* as “both immediate and revelatory... the work is both deranged... and consummately accomplished.”

Delusion was commissioned by Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad and Barbicanbite10, London, with additional support from Brooklyn Academy of Music for the 2010 Next Wave Festival; Stanford Lively Arts, and Cal Performances. *Delusion* premiered in February 2010 at the Vancouver Playhouse, as part of the 2010 Cultural Olympiad.

LAURIE ANDERSON

Laurie Anderson was born in 1947 near Chicago, Illinois. As a child she studied violin and played in the Chicago Youth Symphony. She attended Oakland’s Mills College before graduating from Barnard College, then did graduate work in sculpture at Columbia University. While at Columbia, she became involved in the New York experimental art scene of the early 1970s. She has gone on to a diverse creative career, recording several albums, writing songs and articles, mounting gallery shows and creating large-scale theatrical works that combine music, video, storytelling and sculpture.

Anderson rose to international prominence in 1980, when her single “O Superman” reached number two on the British pop charts. During the 1980s, she recorded numerous albums; composed soundtracks for several films; produced and appeared in her own concert film, *Home of the Brave*; appeared in a number of live stage shows and television programs; and hosted the PBS series *Alive from Off Center*. Anderson’s television, movie and performance work continued through the 1990s and her career expanded to include projects such as the *Rugrats Movie* (she provided the voice of a newborn baby), interactive CD-ROMs, music for choreographers, including Bill T. Jones and Trisha Brown, and an article for the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* on the cultural character of New York City. All the while she has explored technology and its effects on communication and shared her understanding of these concepts through her performance art.

In 2002, Anderson was appointed the first artist-in-residence at NASA, and in this role she developed her solo performance, *End of the Moon*, which she toured internationally from 2004 through 2006. She also contributed to the opening ceremonies for the 2004 Olympic Games in

Athens and created an art installation for the World Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan. April 2008, Anderson married her longtime companion, musician Lou Reed; the couple currently resides in New York City.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Laurie Anderson's *Delusion* on Friday & Saturday, May 7 & 8, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall** are priced at \$30.00, \$42.00 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 for UCB students; \$15 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20 for all other community members. Information is available on Cal Performances' Facebook page and at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, three 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

Friday & Saturday, May 7 & 8 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Theater

Delusion

Laurie Anderson, actor and violin

Program: Avant-garde musician and performance artist Laurie Anderson brings her new work *Delusion* to Zellerbach Hall.

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– Cal Performances –