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**SOPRANO LISA DELAN AND PIANIST MIKHAIL PLETNEV
PERFORM *THE WHITE ELECTION* TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23
AT 8:00 P.M. IN FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

The poetry of Emily Dickinson is the subject of composer Gordon Getty's song cycle.

BERKELEY, January 19, 2010—The “refreshingly unpretentious” (*Gramophone*) American soprano **Lisa Delan** joins forces with Grammy Award-winning pianist **Mikhail Pletnev** on **Tuesday, February 23 at 8:00 p.m.** at **First Congregational Church** in Berkeley. The two artists, who performed with the Russian National Orchestra (RNO) the week before, turn their attention to **Gordon Getty's** song cycle *The White Election* (the title refers to the renunciation of the world), a work based on the poetry of Emily Dickinson. Getty's setting of 32 of the great poet's poems carries the audience through the spiritual progress of Dickinson's uneventful, yet intensely felt, life in mid-19th-century America.

Getty came across a book of Dickinson's poetry in Paris. “I came back to my hotel, read 2,000 of her poems and immediately began composing in my head,” explained Getty. “I wrote down the melodies even before I got to a piano.” Emily Dickinson, who studied voice and piano and played at home, loved to improvise late at night. “I have set them, in large part, just as Emily might have if her music had found a balance between tradition and iconoclasm something like that in her poems.” A new CD of *The White Election* with Delan and pianist **Fritz Steinegger** was released on the PentaTone label April 2009.

LISA DELAN

American soprano **Lisa Delan**, a graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, sang the title role in the world premiere of Gordon Getty's *Joan and the Bells* in 1998, a role she has since reprised in France, Germany, Russia and throughout the United States including at Cal Performances in 2004 with RNO. Critics have praised her depiction of Joan of Arc as “beautifully sung” (*International Record Review*) and “a role she has made her own, with the kind of pure tone one expects of a saint-to-be and the passion one expects from a 19-year-old girl going to her death. Miss Delan is exceptional” (*Nevada Events*). Delan's interpretive and

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technical skills in art song brought her to the finals of the 1999 Naumburg International Vocal Competition. She has performed on some of the world's leading stages including Lincoln Center, the Auditorio Nacional in Madrid and the Moscow Conservatory.

A committed recital artist, her repertoire encompasses Rachmaninoff (including his seldom performed Op. 38 songs for high soprano), Richard Strauss, Francis Poulenc, Hugo Wolf, Vincenzo Bellini and Domenico Scarlatti, as well as Charles Ives, Aaron Copland, John Jacob Niles and George Gershwin. Her performances have often featured the music of living composers, including Norman Dello Joio, Jake Heggie, William Bolcom, Andrew Imbrie, David Garner and Gordon Getty.

MIKHAIL PLETNEV

Mikhail Pletnev studied music at the Moscow Conservatory as a teenager and has since become one of Russia's most influential and respected artists. A pianist first, Pletnev is also recognized around the world for his accomplishments as conductor and composer. He founded the Russian National Orchestra in 1990 and remains its musical director. Pletnev garnered worldwide acclaim early on when he won the Gold Medal and First Prize at the 1978 Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition at age 21. Since then, Pletnev has gone on to earn numerous prizes, including a 2005 Grammy Award for his own arrangement of Prokofiev's *Cinderella*, recorded with Martha Argerich. In 2007, Tokyo Record Academy named his recording of Beethoven's concertos 2 and 4 "The Best Concerto Recording of 2007." His album *Schumann Symphonic Etudes* (2004) and recordings of Rachmaninov and the Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3 were also nominated for Grammy awards. Pletnev received a Gramophone Award in 1996 for his album of Scarlatti's keyboard sonatas.

Pletnev regularly appears as guest conductor for such leading orchestras as the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano, Switzerland, named him their first guest conductor in 2008.

GORDON GETTY

Born in Los Angeles in 1933, **Gordon Getty** has lived in San Francisco since 1945. He graduated from the University of San Francisco with a degree in English literature, having meanwhile studied piano with Robert Vetleson and voice with Easton Kent. Following six months of active duty in the army and four years in family businesses, Getty studied music theory at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

His works include *Plump Jack*, which has had a number of performances as a work in progress and in semi-staged concert versions, by such distinguished orchestras as the San Francisco Symphony, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the BBC Philharmonic, among others. Concert performances of Getty's *The White Election* (1982), were presented by the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Morgan Library and Alice Tully Hall in New York, the Herbst Theater in San Francisco, Harvard, Yale, UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara, the University of Texas, Austin, Indiana Opera Theater, and The Kennedy Center. *Victorian Scenes*, the composer's choral settings of poems by Tennyson and Housman, and a setting for men's voices of Poe's *Annabel Lee*, had their first performance by the Los Angeles Master Chorale and Sinfonia in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion at the Los Angeles Music Center. *Three Waltzes for Piano and Orchestra—Tiefer und Tiefer, Madeline, and Ehemals* were performed by André Previn and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. In 1991, orchestral arrangements of the *Three Waltzes* were performed both at Tanglewood under Zuohang Chen, and by the California Symphony conducted by Barry Jekowsky.

Today, Getty is a frequent visiting composer at colleges and universities across the country and holds honorary doctorates from the University of Maryland, Pepperdine University, UC San Francisco, San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Mannes College of Music.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for soprano **Lisa Delan** and pianist **Mikhail Pletnev** on **Tuesday, February 23, 2010**, at **8:00 p.m.** at **First Congregational Church** in Berkeley 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

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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

Tuesday, February 23 at 8:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Recital

The White Election

Lisa Delan, soprano

Mikhail Pletnev, piano

Gorden Getty, composer

Program:

Getty/*The White Election*

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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