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**JAZZ GUITARIST PAT METHENY BRINGS HIS
MECHANICAL ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC ORCHESTRION
TO CAL PERFORMANCES SATURDAY, APRIL 24 AT 8:00 P.M.
AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, March 11, 2010—The great jazz guitarist **Pat Metheny** continues his quest for musical innovation when he brings his one-of-a-kind **Orchestrion** to **Zellerbach Hall** on **Saturday, April 24** at **8:00 p.m.** Metheny's Orchestrion is made up of more than 40 acoustic and acousto-electric instruments, including pianos, guitars and percussion that are mechanically controlled using solenoids and pneumatics. Onstage alone, Metheny plays his Orchestrion using his guitar, a pen, keyboard or computer, creating a "solo ensemble" with the dynamic, sonic and musical range of a jazz orchestra. "The result is Metheny squared, or cubed," raved *The Guardian*. "Musically, it's like nothing you've ever heard before (*London Jazz Review*).

THE ORCHESTRION

Pat Metheny traces his Orchestrion's roots to a player piano in his grandparents' basement in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. As a child, Metheny was mesmerized by the mechanical instrument. That early fascination grew when Metheny became a professional guitarist and learned about late 19th- and early 20th-century electro-mechanical instruments—called "Orchestrions"—that included instruments other than pianos. While Metheny has always been eager to embrace new technologies, including synthesizers, sampling, and electronics, the melding of acoustic, mechanical and electronic technologies aroused particular interest. "I have never seen any of these sound components—electric or acoustic in nature—as being mutually exclusive," Metheny has said.

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Over several years, Metheny commissioned a group of talented inventors and technicians to construct a large palette of acoustic sound-producing devices for his new Orchestrion. Advances in computer-assisted controls, musical instrument digital interface (MIDI) and other technologies were employed in the construction. This allowed the Orchestrion's instruments—including several pianos, a drum kit, marimbas, “guitar-bots,” dozens of percussion instruments, and even cabinets of tuned bottles, played by blasts of air—to have a musical and dynamic range far beyond those of the Orchestrions of a century ago. Still, Metheny insists that his goal with developing the Orchestrion was solely musical, not technological.

Metheny's own Orchestrion took form in the spring of 2009. He set to work composing original music for the instrument, which was recorded and released on an album titled *Orchestrion* on January 26, 2010. *All About Jazz* called the record “one of the most innovative and compositionally profound albums of [Metheny's] career,” and the *New York Times* wrote that “beyond the obvious technical feat—thousands of moving parts, executing a programmed score—the performance dazzled.”

This spring's 37-city Orchestrion Tour, on which Metheny and a team of technicians and engineers are taking the 14-foot-high, 35-foot-wide, eight-and-half ton instrument, will present pieces composed by Metheny expressly for his Orchestrion. The program will also feature improvisational pieces that Metheny will perform with the instrument. In these improvised numbers, the Orchestrion responds to cues from Metheny's guitar and pedals in real time, creating a solo performance that embraces the equivalent of a multi-piece band. “What sounds like an entire jazz orchestra playing is in fact only one man,” says the *Daily Express* (U.K.), adding, “Quite amazing.”

PAT METHENY

Pat Metheny was born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1954 and started playing guitar at age 12. By age 15, he was working regularly with the best jazz musicians in his hometown, and

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at age 20 he burst onto the international jazz scene in a three-year stint in the band of vibraphone great **Gary Burton**. Metheny's first album, 1975's *Bright Size Life*, reinvented the traditional jazz guitar sound for a new generation of players. In his four-decade career he has extended his creative range by performing with diverse artists including **Steve Reich, Ornette Coleman, Herbie Hancock, Jim Hall, Milton Nascimento** and **David Bowie**. The **Pat Metheny Group** formed around 1977 and has served as a venue for Metheny's own explorations of jazz ensemble music. An indefatigable performer, Metheny has played 120 to 240 live shows a year since 1974.

Metheny is a composer and educator as well as a performer. For 20 years, he has written music with keyboardist Lyle Mays—a member of the Pat Metheny Group since its inception—as well as composing on his own. Metheny's compositions include works for solo guitar, small ensembles, electric and acoustic instruments, and orchestras and range in style from modern jazz to rock to classical. At age 19, Metheny was the youngest teacher at the Berklee College of Music, and the institution awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1996. He has taught clinics and workshops around the world.

Metheny has earned three gold records and has won 17 Grammy Awards in several categories, including Best Contemporary Jazz Recording, Best Jazz Instrumental Solo and Best Instrumental Composition. The Pat Metheny Group has won an unprecedented seven consecutive Grammys for seven consecutive albums.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Pat Metheny's Orchestrion** on **Saturday, April 24, 2010**, at **8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$70.00, \$58.00, \$42.00** and **\$30.00**. 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,

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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, three hours prior to a performance only.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, April 24 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Jazz

Pat Metheny's Orchestrion

Program: Multiple Grammy-winning guitarist Pat Metheny performs with mechanical electro-acoustic "solo ensemble" he calls Orchestrion. Selections will be announced from the stage.

Tickets: \$70.00, \$58.00, \$42.00 and \$30.00, 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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