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PEKING ACROBATS SPRING INTO ZELLERBACH HALL
WITH STUNNING FEATS OF POWER AND GRACE
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JANUARY 23 & 24

SchoolTime: One-hour Performances for Bay Area Students Will be Given
Monday & Tuesday, January 25 & 26 at 11:00 a.m.

BERKELEY, December 10, 2009—“Feats of clowning, dexterity, grace, strength and coordination [will] ripple from the stage in a series of pleasurable waves” (*Chicago Tribune*), when the Peking Acrobats return to Zellerbach Hall **Saturday & Sunday, January 23 & 24**. For two matinee performances, the Bay Area audience will witness awe-inspiring maneuvers high above the stage, treacherous wire-walking, and astounding displays of contortion, flexibility and control. This elite group of gymnasts, jugglers, cyclists, tumblers and musicians from the People’s Republic of China has left audiences around the world spellbound by the elegant athleticism of this ancient folk art. Musicians of the Peking Acrobats complement the performance by playing traditional Chinese string, wind and percussion instruments from China, such as the *erhu* (a small bowed instrument with two strings), *pipa* (a string instrument similar to a lute), *dizi* (a flute made of bamboo) and the *yangquin* (a dulcimer played with bamboo mallets). The Peking Acrobats perform under the direction of **Hai Ken Tsai**, whose family is rooted in three generations of Chinese acrobatics.

One-hour *SchoolTime* performances for Bay Area K–12 students will feature select acts from the Peking Acrobats on **Monday & Tuesday, January 25 & 26 at 11:00 a.m.** at **Zellerbach Hall**. Tickets are \$4.00 and must be arranged in advance; for further information, please call 510.642.9988.

The Peking Acrobats have been diplomats of their spirited culture since 1952. At age five, the hand-selected performers begin training in master acrobatic disciplines that were developed more than 2,200 years ago during the Ch’in Dynasty (221–207 BCE). In this period, acrobatics were only practiced among the peasants and on the streets. It was not until the Han

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Dynasty (207 BCE–220 CE) that acrobatics flourished and a wide variety of juggling, tumbling and magic acts came to be known as the “Hundred Entertainments.” Emperor Wu Di of the Han Dynasty presented the first grand acrobatic performance at the Imperial Court, thus making it an important element in Chinese performing arts. As precursors to the Peking Opera, acrobatics were incorporated into operatic productions, a tradition that continues today.

The Peking Acrobats’ widespread international appeal has led to milestone performances in the United States, such as the 2003 Hollywood Bowl Fireworks Season Finale with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. Since their orchestral debut, the Peking Acrobats have performed with some of the most prestigious symphony orchestras in North America, including the Atlanta Symphony, the San Diego Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony and the Ravinia Festival Orchestra, featuring members of the Chicago Symphony.

The troupe’s mastery has led to numerous television appearances, including *The Wayne Brady Show*, *That’s Incredible*, ABC’s *Wide World of Sports*, NBC’s *Ring in the New Year Holiday Special*, Nickelodeon’s *Unfabulous* and Fox’s *Guinness Book Primetime TV*; and company members were featured in Stephen Soderbergh’s hit films the *Ocean’s 11* trilogy. For the past five years, the Peking Acrobats have toured and expanded their reach into the European market—visiting countries like Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and Switzerland have helped strengthen their popularity in Europe. “‘A’ is for acrobats and astounding, amusing, audacious and accomplished, accurate and attractive, and admirable, all of which describe, though not complete, the Peking Acrobats” (*Variety*).

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Peking Acrobats** on **Saturday & Sunday, January 23 & 24** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$24.00**, **\$32.00** and **\$46.00**, with special half-price tickets for children 16 and under to both performances. 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 \$20.00 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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Cal Performances 2009/10 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC is our 2009/10 season media sponsor.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, January 23 at 2:00 p.m. [FF]

Sunday, January 24 at 3:00 p.m. [FF]

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

World Stage

Peking Acrobats

Program: The world-famous Peking Acrobats from the People's Republic of China perform acrobatic feats that have been dazzling audiences since 1952.

Tickets: \$24.00, \$32.00 and \$46.00, with special half-price tickets for children 16 and under for all performances; available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.net; and at the door.

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Monday & Tuesday, January 25 & 26 at 11:00 a.m. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

World Stage
Peking Acrobats

Program: The Peking Acrobats bring a special one-hour excerpt performance from their repertory of acts to schoolchildren.

Tickets: \$4.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-1082. *SchoolTime* performances are open to students in kindergarten through grade 12 in Bay Area public and private schools. Supplemental study guides for the classroom are provided. For more information about the *SchoolTime* program, contact the *SchoolTime* coordinator at Cal Performances by email at eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

– Cal Performances –