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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE INCOMPARABLE
RENÉE FLEMING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT 7:00 P.M. AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**First Special Event of the 2009/10 season will feature works from
Fleming's new CD *Verismo***

BERKELEY, October 30, 2009—American soprano **Renée Fleming**, among the most highly regarded and celebrated singers in the world, comes to Cal Performances on **Sunday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m.** at **Zellerbach Hall** in the season's first Special Event performance. Fleming's sense of musical fearlessness and risk-taking will be reflected in her Berkeley program where she will balance unfamiliar works by little-known composers such as **Ruggero Leoncavallo, Umberto Giordano and Riccardo Zandonai** with songs and arias by **Olivier Messiaen, Jules Massenet, Henri Dutilleux and Richard Strauss**. Her newly released album titled *Verismo* supplies the lesser known works. True to form, Fleming recently stated in *The New York Times*, "I don't want to record anything unless it can be great and genuinely interesting. When I see 30 recordings of the same title, I think, 'That's not a good idea.'" Fleming will be accompanied by her longtime musical collaborator pianist **Gerald Martin Moore**.

"In the summer of her career" (*New York Post*), Renée Fleming's vocal artistry is acclaimed worldwide as the gold standard of soprano sound. The two-time Grammy Award winner's sensuous voice, interpretive skills and stylistic versatility are sought after on stage and in recordings. A champion of new music as well as the standard repertoire, the American soprano performs throughout the world's most distinguished venues with today's foremost orchestras and conductors. She has performed at numerous distinguished occasions, including the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing and the televised *We Are One: The Obama Inaugural Celebration* at the Lincoln Memorial concert for President Barack Obama. In 2008, Fleming became the first woman in the 125-year history of the Metropolitan Opera to headline an opening night gala.

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In the recording arena, Fleming has numerous award-winning discs to her credit, including eight Grammy Award nominations and two wins. In 2004, she released a collection of arias entitled *Renée Fleming: Handel*. Recent CDs include *Renée Fleming By Request* (2003), a collection of selected works from her recording catalog plus a few new additions, and the Grammy Award-winning *Bel Canto*, a collection of works by Bellini, Donizetti and Rossini, which received the 2003 Edison Vocal Soloist Award and a 2003 Echo award. Additionally, Fleming can be heard in three tracks on the Warner Bros. Records' original 2003 movie soundtrack to *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. Fleming's latest recording, *Verismo*, was released in September of 2009 to great acclaim, with *Gramophone* praising Fleming's performance as "generous and true throughout."

Fleming's achievements within the classical music industry have been recognized with many honors, the most recent being Sweden's 2008 Polar Prize. The French government has presented her with two honors: the Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (2002) and the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in 2005. The soprano was honored with the Female Artist of the Year from the Classical BRIT Awards and in 2004 received another BRIT Award for Outstanding Contribution to Music. In 2003, she was bestowed with Honorary Membership by the Royal Academy of Music; that same year, she received an honorary doctorate from The Juilliard School (where she was also the commencement speaker). Among earlier awards is the 2000 Gift of Music Award from the Orchestra of St. Luke's, given to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the world of classical music.

Outside of the classical music world, Fleming's excellence has been acknowledged as well. In May 2004, at Pacifica Flora, Japan's international horticultural exhibition, the "Renée Fleming" iris was unveiled. People Magazine named her one of the "25 Most Intriguing People" of 2000, and in 1999, master chef Daniel Boulud paid homage to her with a chocolate dessert called "La Diva Renée," placing her in a legendary pantheon. The novelist Ann Patchett referred to her as the inspiration for the main character in her best-selling book, *Bel Canto* (2002). Couturier Gianfranco Ferre has designed Ms. Fleming's stage gowns since 1998, and Issey Miyake and Oscar de la Renta have created gowns for her as well.

Renée Fleming studied at The Juilliard School and holds degrees from the State University of New York at Potsdam and the Eastman School of Music. Early recognitions in Fleming's career included the 1988 Metropolitan Opera National Auditions, the Richard Tucker Award, the George London Prize, the Grand Prix at the International Singing Competition in Belgium, and a Fulbright Scholarship to Germany.

Gerald Martin Moore has worked with Renée Fleming on musical preparation since their first collaboration on the production and recording of *Alcina* in Paris; he has served as her musical advisor on every subsequent solo recording. Other singers Moore regular works with include Natalie Dessay, Laura Claycomb, Sarah Connolly, Joan Rodgers and Danielle de Niese, among others. He is also sought-after singing teacher and vocal coach. As a master on vocal technique, he is a regular broadcaster for BBC and has been honored in a special interview on BBC Radio 3's Voices. He has written for Opera Magazine on the technique of coloratura singing. Moore has a special interest in working with young singers, having given master classes at such locations as San Francisco, the Los Angeles Young Artists Programme, Washington National Opera, Houston Grand Opera and the Royal Danish Opera. Additionally, he has taught singing at the Royal College of Music in London and, since 2006, is voice teacher for the Atelier Lyrique Young Artists program in Montreal.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Renée Fleming**, on **Sunday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$48.00, \$68.00, \$80.00** and **\$100.00**. 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

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and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two 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, December 6 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Special Event

Renée Fleming, soprano

Gerald Martin Moore, piano

Program:

Messiaen/*Poems pour Mi*

Massenet/"J'ai versé le poison dans cette coupe d'or" from *Cléopâtre*

Dutilleul/*Le temps l'horloge*

Strauss/ *Verführung*, Opus 33, No. 1; *Freundliche Vision*, Opus 48, No. 1; *Ständchen*, Opus 17,

No. 2; *Winterweihe*, Opus 48, No. 4; *Zueignung*, Opus 10, No. 1

Leoncavallo/"Angioletto, il tuo nome?" from *Zazà*; "Musette svara sulla bocca viva" and "Mimi

Pinson, la biondinetta" from *La Bohème*

Giordano/"Nel suo amore rianimata" from *Siberia*

Zandonai/ "Ier dalla fabbrica a Triana" from *Conchita*

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