

CONTACT:
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu
Joe Yang 510.642.9121
scyang@calperfs.berkeley.edu

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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE
SHANGHAI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WITH
GUEST PIANIST YUJA WANG
ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 AT 3:00 PM AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

Program includes Qigang Chen's *Iris dévoilé* featuring traditional and Western singing and instruments plus works by Mussorgsky and Rachmaninoff

BERKELEY, October 20, 2009—Celebrating its 130th anniversary, Asia's oldest orchestra, the **Shanghai Symphony Orchestra**, makes its Cal Performances debut **Sunday, November 22 at 3:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall**. Conductor **Long Yu** leads the orchestra on an historic North American tour that blends the musical traditions of the Western classical sphere with that of the East. Pianist **Yuja Wang**, *Gramophone's* 2009 Young Artist of the Year, joins the Orchestra. "The arrival of Chinese-born pianist Yuja Wang on the musical scene is an exhilarating and unnerving development. To listen to her in action is to re-examine whatever assumptions you may have had about how well the piano can actually be played" (*The San Francisco Chronicle*). She will perform **Sergei Rachmaninoff's** Piano Concerto No. 2, a deeply emotional and personal work and one of Rachmaninoff's most enduringly popular compositions. The first half of the program also includes **Modest Mussorgsky's** "Dawn on the Moscow River," the prelude to *Khovanshchina*, an opera set in the time of Peter the Great.

Following intermission, the symphony will perform **Qigang Chen's** *Iris dévoilée* (2001), an iconic, large-scale suite concertante for classically-trained and Peking Opera-style sopranos, traditional Chinese instruments and orchestra. Chen, Olivier Messiaen's last pupil, creates a musical and stylistic synthesis of East and West in this nine-movement composition that *All Music Guide* calls "at various times atmospheric, pastoral, spectral, nocturnal, glittery, and at a couple of points, downright scary," each movement representing individual facets of *l'éternel féminin*. Among the young soloists joining the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra for this special concert are classical soprano **Xiaoduo Chen** and Peking opera soprano **Meng Meng**, and traditional instrumentalists **Nan Wang**, *erhu* (a two-stringed bowed instrument often known as

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the “Chinese violin” in the west); **Jia Li**, *pipa* (a four-stringed plucked instrument similar to the lute); and **Xin Sun**, *guzheng* (an ancient Chinese zither).

YUJA WANG

At just 22 years old, Chinese pianist **Yuja Wang** is widely recognized for artistry that encompasses the spontaneity and fearless imagination of youth with the discipline and precision of a mature artist. Born in Beijing, Wang began studying piano at age six, with her earliest public performances taking place in China, Australia and Germany. She studied at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing under Ling Yuan and Zhou Guangren. Wang later moved to Canada to study at the Mount Royal College Conservatory. In 2002, Wang came to the United States to study with Gary Graffman at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she graduated in 2008.

Wang’s relatively short performing career has already spanned the globe as both soloist and recitalist. She has performed with many of the world’s prestigious organizations, including the San Francisco, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Houston and National symphonies; the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh orchestras in the United States; and abroad with the Tonhalle Orchestra; the China, London and Nagoya philharmonics; and the NHK Symphony in Tokyo, among others. In 2009, Wang performed as a soloist with the YouTube Symphony Orchestra led by Michael Tilson Thomas at Carnegie Hall. A dedicated performer of chamber music, Wang makes regular appearances at festivals such as the Aspen, Santa Fe Chamber Music, Gilmore and Verbier festivals.

In October, Wang made her Carnegie Hall orchestral debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra led by Charles Dutoit. This season, she will perform the world premiere of Jennifer Higdon’s piano concerto with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. Wang will also debut with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Frankfurter Museumsorchester, Filarmonica della Scala, Gulbenkian Orchestra and the Monte Carlo Philharmonic. She will make recital debuts at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, the Hong Kong City Hall Theater and the Mozarteum in Salzburg.

In addition to Wang's tour with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, she will appear in seven performances with the Russian National Orchestra conducted by Patrick Summers during the ensemble's 20th Anniversary U.S. tour.

An exclusive recording artist for Deutsche Grammophon, Wang's debut recording, *Sonatas & Etudes* (2009), "suggests a combination of blazing technique and a rare instinct for poetry," wrote *Gramophone* magazine, which named Wang 2009's Young Artist of the Year.

SHANGHAI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The **Shanghai Symphony Orchestra** is the earliest and best-known ensemble of its kind in Asia. It formed in 1879 as the Shanghai Public Band and, in 1922, was renamed the Shanghai Municipal Council Symphony Orchestra. Under the leadership of Italian maestro Mario Paci from 1919 to 1942, the ensemble expanded into a full-scale orchestra. Paci promoted Western music and trained the young Chinese musicians in this style. The ensemble introduced the first Chinese orchestral work to Asian audiences; the history of the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra is the history of China's symphonic music development.

Since its inception, the Shanghai Symphony has been influential both at home and abroad, gaining a reputation as the most commanding interpreter of Chinese symphonic compositions. The ensemble has held over ten thousand concerts around the world, performing the premieres of several thousand works and collaborating with world renowned conductors, soloists and vocalists. The symphony has debuted at Carnegie Hall, toured Europe to celebrate the Sino-French Cultural Year and was the first Chinese symphony to ever play at the Berliner Philharmonie. Most recently, the company completed the audio and video recordings of Zhu Jianer's Symphonies, Tan Dun's multimedia concerto *The Map* and music for the film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. Conductor Long Yu was appointed Music Director of the Shanghai Symphony in 2009.

LONG YU

Long Yu is a distinguished Chinese conductor with an established international reputation. He has appeared in concert with such prestigious orchestra and opera companies as the Chicago

Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic and Orchestre de Paris, among others. In 1992, he was appointed Principal Conductor of the Beijing's Central Opera Theatre and was involved in the planning of the first Beijing New Year's Concert. During this time, he also produced operas for the Urban Council of Hong Kong. Yu led the creation of the Beijing Musical Festival in 1998 and continues to serve as its Artistic Director. This event hosts performances by world-renowned ensembles and artists and commissions new works from today's most prestigious composers; it is often regarded as one of the world's most important music festivals. Yu co-founded the China Philharmonic Orchestra in 2000 and serves as its Artistic Director and Principal Conductor. The ensemble has toured North America and Europe extensively under Yu's baton. In 2008, he conducted a concert in the Vatican attended by Pope Benedict XIV. Long also serves as Music Director of the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra.

His recordings include Brahms's Piano Quartet in G Minor, Wagner's opera *Tannhäuser*, highlights of Chinese symphonic music and *Yellow River Concerto* on Deutsche Grammophon; recordings on Naxos include Korngold's Violin Concerto and Ding Shande's *Long March Symphony*. He has received the 2002 Montblanc Arts Patronage Award, the Honor of Chevalier of French Art and Culture from the French government in 2003 and, in 2005, was honored by the Italian President.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Shanghai Symphony Orchestra** with **Long Yu**, conductor, in concert with **Yuja Wang**, pianist, on **Sunday, November 22, 2009** at **3:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$28.00, \$40.00** and **\$60.00**. 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 \$10.00 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

Sunday, November 22 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Orchestra

Shanghai Symphony Orchestra

Long Yu, music director and conductor

Yuja Wang, piano

Program: Mussorgsky/Prelude to *Khovanshchina*, "Dawn on the Moscow River";
Rachmaninoff/Piano Concerto No. 2; and Chen/*Iris dévoilé*.

Tickets: \$28.00, \$40.00 and \$60.00, 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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