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JAZZ PIANIST AND TWO-TIME GRAMMY NOMINEE TAYLOR EIGSTI AND JAZZ GUITAR SENSATION JULIAN LAGE COME TO CAL PERFORMANCES SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 AT 8:00 P.M. IN WHEELER AUDITORIUM

BERKELEY, October 16, 2009—Two of the brightest young talents in jazz join forces for an evening of intimate improvisations when pianist **Taylor Eigsti** and guitarist **Julian Lage** take the stage of **Wheeler Auditorium, Saturday, November 21 at 8:00 p.m.** Each a native of Northern California, Eigsti and Lage have garnered critical and popular acclaim for their playing and have quickly established themselves as bandleaders in their own right. They have a significant performance history together as well. Lage, “a giant in the making” (allaboutjazz.com), performs on “piano whirlwind” (jazzreview.com) Eigsti’s Grammy-nominated album *Lucky to Be Me* (2006) which also features a duet composed by Lage and Eigsti. Lage also appeared on Eigsti’s 2008 album *Fall Back Plan*. Their collaborative efforts were last heard at Cal Performances in 2007 when Lage performed as part of a quartet led by Eigsti. The program will be announced from the stage.

TAYLOR EIGSTI

Since taking up the piano at the age of four, **Taylor Eigsti** has been in the spotlight, attracting attention not only because of his unusually young age but also through the maturity he has displayed through his playing. Although the term “child prodigy” has been inescapable throughout his career, critics have been first to concede that Eigsti’s musical stylings transcend his years. At age 13, Eigsti sat in with legendary jazz pianist Dave Brubeck, who proclaimed, “Taylor is the most amazing talent I’ve come across. Remember him.” The Menlo Park native spent much of his adolescence juggling school and working with scores of renowned jazz and classical artists, including Bobby Hutcherson, Red Holloway, Kevin Mahogany, Frederica Von

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Stade and Sylvia McNair. At age 15, while still in high school, Eigsti joined the teaching staff at the renowned Stanford Jazz Workshop. At around that time Eigsti recorded his first album, *Tay's Groove*, featuring Bay Area bassist Seward McCain and drummer Dan Brubeck.

Eigsti's virtuosic interpretation of jazz and his integration of contemporary elements of funk, hip-hop and swing into his playing and compositions have garnered critical acclaim. Following his debut and three subsequent releases, Eigsti's 2003 Bob City Records album *Resonance* received rave reviews and with band members John Shifflett on bass and Jason Lewis on the drums "whisper, stroll, strut, and blow through a set of familiar and original tunes" (jazzreview.com). Eigsti won still more exposure and esteem with his 2006 debut on Concord Records, *Lucky to Be Me*. The album, which features Julian Lage as a guest performer, incorporates the progressive jazz sounds of the 21st century with roots of traditional jazz. *Lucky to Be Me* earned two Grammy nominations, one for Best Instrumental Jazz Solo and another for Best Instrumental Composition, and solidified Eigsti's standing in the music world as "no small talent" (*The New York Times*).

This is Eigsti's second concert at Wheeler Auditorium; he made his Cal Performances' debut in October 2007. Additionally, he participated in the 2007 Cal Performances-sponsored San Francisco Fashion Week events in August appearing as a model and a musician. Eigsti has recently relocated to New York.

JULIAN LAGE

Santa Rosa-native **Julian Lage** began playing guitar at age five and soon discovered jazz. By age 11, he was playing with sufficient skill to be chosen to perform on the nationally televised Grammy Awards telecast, where he was spotted by vibraphone great Gary Burton. Shortly thereafter, Burton asked Lage to join him in performances, and a collaboration developed. In 2003, he performed on Burton's *Generations* CD; they recorded another CD in 2005 titled *Next Generation*. Lage has performed multiple times at the San Francisco Jazz

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Festival, the Monterey Jazz Festival and the Newport Jazz Festival, and he currently tours with his own group. In 2005, he and Eigsti toured Brazil and appeared at the Ouro Preto Festival.

The Boston-based Lage recently released his debut album, *Sounding Point*, on EmArcy Records. The CD has received universally enthusiastic reviews, and it is considered by some critics to be one of the most striking and sophisticated debut recordings of a jazz instrumentalist and composer in many years. “Most artists his age are described in terms of promise; with *Sounding Point*, Lage bypasses promise and goes straight to delivery” (allaboutjazz.com).

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Taylor Eigsti & Julian Lage Duo** on **Saturday, November 21, 2009**, at **8:00 p.m.** in **Wheeler Auditorium** are priced at **\$36.00**. 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

Saturday, November 21 at 8:00 p.m.

Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Jazz

Taylor Eigsti & Julian Lage Duo

Program: Two-time Grammy nominee pianist Taylor Eigsti performs with guitarist Julian Lage.

Tickets: \$36.00 and 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.

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