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**THE ZUKERMAN CHAMBERPLAYERS, LED BY VIOLINIST
PINCHAS ZUKERMAN, MAKE THEIR BAY AREA DEBUT WITH
TWO DISTINCT PROGRAMS ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12
AT 8:00 P.M. AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13
AT 3:00 P.M. AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

***Sightlines:* UC Berkeley musicologist Yael Braunschweig will give a 30-minute talk one hour before each performance.**

BERKELEY, December 21, 2010—The **Zukerman ChamberPlayers**, led by renowned Israeli violinist **Pinchas Zukerman**, make their Bay Area debut with Cal Performances with two different programs on **Saturday, February 12 at 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, February 13 at 3:00 p.m.** at Zellerbach Hall. Both concerts feature works by **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** and **Johannes Brahms**, while the Sunday concert also includes a composition for solo piano, **Robert Schumann's** *Fantasiestücke*. Zukerman, a former child prodigy who is now a sought-after soloist and conductor, formed the five-member group in 2002 as a flexible vehicle for playing chamber music masterworks and exploring diverse and rarely heard chamber music. The ensemble has been praised for its “musicianship of a rare, elevated character” (*La Scena Musicale*) and includes **Jessica Linnebach** (violin); **Jethro Marks** (viola); **Amanda Forsyth** (cello); **Angela Cheng** (piano).

Sightlines per-performance talks will be given by UC Berkeley musicologist Yael Braunschweig on Saturday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, February 13 at 2:00 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall. This event is free to ticket holders.

PROGRAM

On Saturday, February 12, the Zukerman ChamberPlayers will open their concert with **Divertimento for String Trio in E-flat major, K. 563**, by Mozart. Written for violin, viola, and cello in 1788, it is the only complete string trio Mozart composed, and is considered the first substantial work for string trio ever written. Unlike most *divertimenti*, typically written as light entertainments, Mozart's is a serious work that demands much of its players. It will be followed

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by the **Piano Quintet in F Minor** by Brahms. The composition was begun in 1862 as a string quintet with two cellos; in 1864 it debuted as a Sonata for Two Pianos, and later that year the composer reworked it for piano, two violins, viola, and cello—as it will be performed in Berkeley. The piece relies heavily on the piano, particularly in its first and second movements, and concludes with a slow-building finale which, like other Brahms works, draws some of its themes from Gypsy music.

The Sunday afternoon concert opens with a *Sonatensatz*, or sonata movement, written by Brahms in 1853. This piece for violin and piano was Brahms' contribution to the "F-A-E Sonata," a collaborative work written with Robert Schumann and his student Albert Dietrich as a gift to the violinist Joseph Joachim. ("F-A-E" refers both to notes that the composers agreed would appear as a motif in all of their pieces, and to the German phrase *frei aber einsam*, meaning "free but alone.") Brahms' movement of the sonata, a *scherzo*, has since become popular as a stand-alone chamber work; the F-A-E motif is deeply buried in the piece's musical density. That will be followed by **Mozart's Duo in G major**, K. 423 for violin and viola, which the composer wrote to help his friend Michael Haydn (Joseph's younger brother). Haydn had been commissioned to write six violin-viola duets, but was only able to complete four due to illness. Mozart wrote two more duets in the style of Haydn, this work being the first; Mozart's duets were better-received than Haydn's. Schumann's *Fantasiestücke* ("Fantasy Pieces") follow; these eight works, intended to be played as a set, were written for solo piano in 1837. They convey a variety of moods, from fiery to spooky, manic to humorous. The concert concludes with Brahms' **Piano Quartet No. 2**, written in 1861 for piano, violin, viola, and cello. The strings regularly operate as a unit and in response to the piano part, particularly in the first movement's main theme; after a beautiful adagio in the spirit of the composer's friend Schumann, who died not long before Brahms wrote it, the piece concludes with a masterful sonata.

PINCHAS ZUKERMAN

Born in Tel Aviv, Israel in 1948, Pinchas Zukerman was recognized very early as a musical prodigy. He came to the United States in 1962 with the support of Isaac Stern, Pablo Casals, and the America-Israel and Helena Rubenstein Foundations. He studied with Ivan

Galamian at The Juilliard School and in 1967 won the Leventritt Competition. Zukerman has been described as a “forever-young virtuoso” (*Los Angeles Times*).

Zukerman performs more than 150 concerts each year. His career as a soloist has taken him from to the stages of the world’s finest orchestras, and he has also performed or recorded with most of the great names in chamber music, including Daniel Barenboim, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Itzhak Perlman, Zubin Mehta, Yo-Yo Ma, the Orion and Tokyo String Quartets, the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, Ralph Kirshbaum, Yefim Bronfman, Lynn Harrell, and Marc Neikrug. Zukerman’s discography covers more than 100 titles, and has earned two Grammy awards and 21 Grammy nominations.

Zukerman began his conducting career in 1970 with the English Chamber Orchestra and has been Music Director of Canada’s National Arts Centre Orchestra since 1998. He has made five recordings with that orchestra, completed several Canadian tours, and visited the United States, Mexico, Europe, and the Middle East. Under Zukerman’s leadership the orchestra has also made numerous television appearances and initiated programs for young artists and conductors. Zukerman has also been music director or guest director of many orchestras and festivals, including the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra’s Summer MusicFest, London’s South Bank Festival, the Dallas Symphony’s International Summer Music Festival, and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

Long interested in the development and training of young artists, Zukerman chairs the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program at the Manhattan School of Music, where he has pioneered the use of videoconferencing to give a select group of gifted students regular string instruction in spite of his rigorous touring and performance schedule.

ZUKERMAN CHAMBERPLAYERS

Praised for their “insightful and exhilarating performances” (*Chicago Classical Review*), the **Zukerman ChamberPlayers** formed in 2002 and have since performed more than 150 concerts around the world. The group consists of founder Pinchas Zukerman, violin; Jessica Linnebach, violin; Jethro Marks, Viola; Amanda Forsyth, cello; and Angela Cheng, piano. The

members were hand-picked by Zukerman, largely from the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, where he is artistic director; Zukerman has described them as “excellent musicians” and has said, “From the very beginning it was simply good—and it keeps going.” There are other connections between the players, too: Linnebach and Marks were Zukerman’s students, and Forsyth is his wife.

The Zukerman ChamberPlayers have appeared at important music festivals in the United States, including Ravinia, Aspen, Tanglewood, La Jolla, and Santa Fe; it is also an annual favorite on the stage at New York City’s 92nd Street Y. The group has also performed in major European musical capitals including Paris, London, Vienna, and Naples, and has performed in Israel, Turkey, China, Russia, and New Zealand. In the 2010–2011 season the Zukerman ChamberPlayers added South America to the continents on which it has played.

The ChamberPlayers’ discography consists of four discs and includes Schubert’s Trout Quintet and Mozart’s Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, recorded with Yefim Bronfman. The group has been called “uncompromising” (*Strings* magazine), “keenly aware” (*New York Times*), and “something special” (*Berlingske Tidende*, Copenhagen).

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Pinchas Zukerman**, violin and the **Zuckerman ChamberPlayers** on **Saturday, February 12 at 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, February 13 at 3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$42.00, \$56.00, \$64.00** and **\$72.00**. 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 \$20.00 for all other community members. Information is available on Cal Performances' Facebook page and at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances' 2010/11 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 13 at 2:00 p.m.

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

SIGHTLINES

Pre-performance talks by UC Berkeley musicologist Yael Braunschweig begin one hour before each performance. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. This event is free to ticket holders.

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Saturday, February 12 at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 13 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Chamber Music

The Zukerman ChamberPlayers
Pinchas Zukerman, director and violin
Jessica Linnebach, violin
Jethro Marks, viola
Amanda Forsyth, cello
Angela Cheng, piano

Program A: Saturday, February 12 at 8:00 p. m.

Mozart/Divertimento for String Trio in E-flat major, K. 563
Brahms/Piano Quintet in F minor

Program B: Sunday, February 13 at 3:00 p.m.

Brahms/*Sonatensatz* from F-A-E Sonata; Piano Quartet No. 2
Mozart/Duo in G major, K. 423

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Schumann/*Fantasiestücke*

Tickets: \$42.00, \$56.00, \$64.00 and \$72.00, 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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