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CONCERT ADDED

CALDER QUARTET AND COMPOSER/PIANIST THOMAS ADÈS BRING A PROGRAM OF CONTEMPORARY AND CLASSICAL CHAMBER MUSIC TO HERTZ HALL SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, AT 3:00 P.M.

Concert features works by Adès, Stravinsky and Liszt

BERKELEY, August 25, 2011—The “outstanding California Ensemble” (*The New York Times*), **Calder Quartet**, and the imaginative and abundantly talented pianist/composer/conductor **Thomas Adès** come to Cal Performances for the first time **Sunday, October 2 at 3:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall**. The program includes **Igor Stravinsky**’s Three Pieces for String Quartet, **Franz Liszt**’s Petrarch Sonnet No. 123 and four compositions by Adès: *Mazurkas*, *Arcadiana*, Piano Quintet and *The Four Quarters*. The Calder Quartet, with **Benjamin Jacobson** (violin), **Andrew Bulbrook** (violin), **Jonathan Moerschel** (viola) and **Eric Byers** (cello), is known for its eclectic programming that spans genres and centuries. The quartet has received praise for their performances of contemporary chamber music literature, particularly works by Adès, as well as innovative modern works and masterpieces of the string quartet repertoire. A frequent collaborator with the Calder Quartet, Adès, the former “*enfant terrible* of British music, has matured wonderfully as a composer” (*The New Yorker*).

THE PROGRAM

Calder Quartet will open its program with Igor Stravinsky’s Three Pieces for String Quartet. Composed in 1914, the composer gave no titles or tempi to the three pieces, but later described them as studies in “popular, fantastic, and liturgical moods.” (When they were later transcribed for orchestra, the difficult, rhythmically challenging compositions were called “Dance,” “Eccentric” and “Canticle.”)

The set of works by Thomas Adès begins with *Mazurkas*, Op. 27, a piano piece that debuted in 2010, which “pays tribute to Chopin by writing modern-day, harmonically spiky,

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rhythmically fractured mazurkas that imaginatively span the keyboard” (*The New York Times*). The string quartet piece *Arcadiana* was commissioned by the Endellion Quartet when Adès was 21 years old and saw its premiere at the Cambridge Elgar Festival in 1994. Running 20 minutes, it melds “melodic strands into [Adès’s] own bold, edgy and startlingly original voice” (*Chicago Classical Review*). Adès’s Piano Quintet will showcase the composer and quartet together. The final piece, *The Four Quarters*, “a charismatic new string quartet” (*Los Angeles Times*), was premiered by the Emerson Quartet in March 2011.

The program will conclude with Adès playing Franz Liszt’s Petrarch Sonnet No. 123, from the second of the composer’s three *Années de pèlerinage* (“Years of Pilgrimage”), based on Goethe’s novel *Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship*. The piece was originally written for voice and piano in the late 1830s, and then arranged for solo piano a decade later. The contemplative character of Petrarch’s words is conveyed through a serene, generally quiet piano score.

In related concerts, on September 29–October 1 Adès’s *Polaris: Voyage for Orchestra* will be performed by the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) with Michael Tilson Thomas conducting; these will be the orchestra’s first performances of this SFS co-commissioned work.

CALDER QUARTET

The four members of **Calder Quartet** began playing together in 1998 as students at the University of Southern California’s Thornton School of Music. The group officially formed upon their graduation in 2003, and named themselves after American artist Alexander Calder. Since then the quartet has been “garnering notoriety as a group that can do anything from tackle the pillars of the string quartet repertoire...to perform with the indie band Airborne Toxic Event on *The Late Show with David Letterman*” (WQXR-FM).

Members of the quartet are **Benjamin Jacobson**, violin, who made his solo debut at age 13 with the San Diego Symphony and has studied primarily under Robert Lipsett at the Colburn Conservatory; **Andrew Bulbrook**, violin, a Massachusetts native who received a BA in economics with highest honors from USC and who provides commentary on classical radio stations while maintaining an active performance career; **Jonathan Moerschel**, viola, another

Massachusetts native who began viola studies with John Ziarko and Eugene Lehner and continued at USC with Donald McInnes and Ralph Fielding; and **Eric Byers**, cello, who began his studies in his hometown of Cincinnati with Wayne Smith, and continued at USC under Smith's teacher, Ronald Leonard.

Known for its collaborations with modern composers including Terry Riley, Christopher Rouse and Thomas Adès, as well as its performances with indie bands, including Airborne Toxic Event (Bulbrook's sister Anna is in the band), Vampire Weekend and party rocker Andrew W.K. The quartet has appeared at the Big Ears Festival in Knoxville; at Walt Disney Hall in Los Angeles as part of the Green Umbrella series; at the Kennedy Center; and at Carnegie Hall, where the group first performed in 2010.

The Calder Quartet is quartet-in-residence at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles. The group has studied at Colburn Conservatory and the Juilliard School, where it received the Artist Diploma in Chamber Music Studies as the Juilliard Graduate Resident String Quartet. In 2004 the quartet co-founded and continues to be associated with the Carlsbad Music Festival, which presents concerts in San Diego and Los Angeles and has commissioned a dozen compositions for string quartet. The Calder Quartet has released two albums, one of which consisted entirely of music by Christopher Rouse, and a limited-edition vinyl LP featuring two early works by Terry Riley. In 2009 it won the ASCAP Adventurous Programming Award. "The Calder Quartet works hard and plays hard. They have a cerebral approach that challenges listeners to expand" (*KCMetropolis*). The quartet's official website is www.calderquartet.com.

THOMAS ADÈS

Composer, pianist and conductor **Thomas Adès** was born in London in 1971 and studied at Guildhall School of Music and Drama and King's College, Cambridge. Declared "one of the several most accomplished and exciting young creative musicians in the world today," by the Carnegie Hall website, Adès has composed chamber music, orchestral pieces, piano concerti, operas, songs and choral music since he was 18 years old, creating works that have been performed by leading ensembles around the world. He collaborated with video artist Tal Rosner on *In Seven Days* (Concerto for Piano and Moving Image), commissioned by the Los Angeles

Philharmonic and London's Southbank Centre which premiered in April 2008 at London's Royal Festival Hall. As a pianist Adès was runner-up in the BBC's Young Musician of the Year competition in 1990 and released an EMI Classics CD on which he played works by Stravinsky, Janáček, Kurtág, Grieg and others. He also has appeared on the recital stage and in concert as an accompanist and performer with singers, instrumentalists, chamber groups and orchestras worldwide.

As a conductor, Adès was resident with the Los Angeles Philharmonic from 2005–2007 and has led groups including the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Orchestre National de Radio France, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Hallé Orchestra, and the BBC, Finnish and Danish Radio Symphony Orchestras. The *Times of London* declared “Adès’ fearless vigour as a conductor is a joy.” Carnegie Hall appointed him to the Richard and Barbara Debs Composer’s Chair and featured him as composer, conductor, and pianist throughout the 2007–2008 season. In 2010–2011 he was artist-in-residence at the Melbourne Festival in Australia.

Adès’s *Polaris: Voyage for Orchestra* will be performed by the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) with Michael Tilson Thomas conducting September 29–October 1 at Davies Symphony Hall; these will be the orchestra’s first performances of this SFS co-commissioned work.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Calder Quartet** with **Thomas Adès**, piano on **Sunday, October 2**, in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$42.00**. 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 \$5.00 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 thanks Wells Fargo, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Bank of America for their major support of the Season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, October 2, at 3:00 p.m.

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

New Music

Calder Quartet

with **Thomas Adès**, piano

Benjamin Jacobson, violin

Andrew Bulbrook, violin

Jonathan Moerschel, viola

Eric Byers, cello

Program:

Stravinsky/Three Pieces for String Quartet

Adès/*Arcadiana*; Mazurkas, Op. 27; Piano Quintet; *The Four Quarters*

Liszt/Petrarch Sonnet No. 123

Tickets: \$42.00, 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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