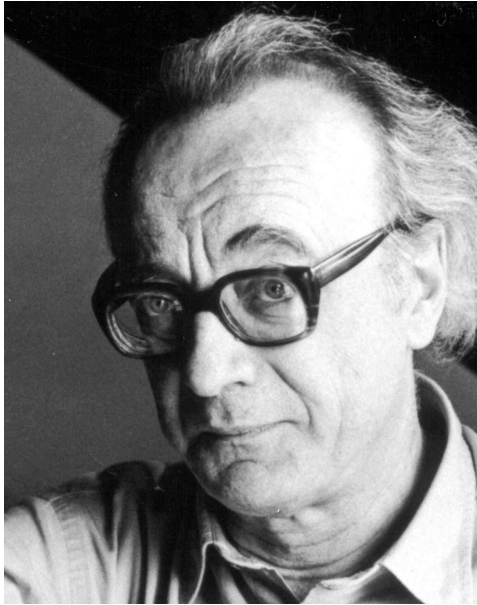


Friday, October 30, 2009, 8pm  
Wheeler Auditorium

## Alfred Brendel



### PROGRAM

#### *On Character in Music*

*Mr. Brendel's Strictly Speaking presentation will run approximately 90 minutes without intermission.*

*This performance is co-produced by the Townsend Center for the Humanities and is made possible, in part, by Patron Sponsor Marie Bertillion Collins.*

*Cal Performances' 2009–2010 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.*

For 60 years, pianist **Alfred Brendel** has enjoyed a distinguished international career concentrating on the works of central European composers from Bach to Schoenberg, with particular recognition for his landmark performances and recordings of the complete piano works of Beethoven, Mozart and Schubert. He has also been a champion of the works of Liszt and was influential in getting the Schoenberg Piano Concerto recognized as an integral part of the piano repertoire. He has performed regularly at the world's major musical centers and festivals, and with virtually all of the leading orchestras and conductors. His extensive discography for Philips Classics has made him one of the most respected artists of our time. Mr. Brendel performed his final concert December 18, 2008 with the Vienna Philharmonic.

This season, Mr. Brendel tours North America to lecture at Yale, Berkeley, the Orange County Performing Arts Center, Princeton, and for the Washington (DC) Performing Arts Society. He lectures and leads residencies at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and at The Juilliard School, co-sponsored by Carnegie Hall, in New York. In Europe, he has lectured at the Klavier Festival Ruhr, at Baden-Baden, and at the Schubertiade in Schwarzenberg, in Dusseldorf and Weimar, and speaks this season in Dresden, Dublin, Vienna and Istanbul.

Mr. Brendel has received honorary degrees from many universities, including Oxford and Yale, and was appointed an honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire in 1989 for his "Outstanding Services to Music in Britain," where he has made

his home since 1972. In 1992, he received the Hans von Bülow Medal from the Berlin Philharmonic and was granted Honorary Membership in the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra in December 1998. In 2001, he was presented with "Lifetime Achievement" awards at both the MIDEM Cannes Classical Awards and the Edison Awards in Holland, as well as the prestigious "Beethoven Ring" in Vienna. He has received the Leonie Sonning Prize, the Furtwängler Prize for Musical Interpretation, and the Robert Schumann Prize, as well as the 2004 Ernst von Siemens Prize, the 2007 Artur Rubinstein Prize in Venice and the 2008 Karajan Prize, and he was named Praemium Imperiale Laureate by the Japan Art Association in 2009.

Besides music, literature has remained Alfred Brendel's foremost interest and second occupation. He has published two books of essays, *Musical Thoughts and Afterthoughts* and *Music Sounded Out*, and a volume of collected essays, *Alfred Brendel on Music*, was published in January 2001 to mark his 70th birthday. His many published collections of poetry have been translated into French, Italian and Dutch—"A collection of texts which can be numbered among the sparse ranks of genuinely comic literature and which make their author possibly 'immortal'" (*Frankfurter Allegmeine Zeitung*). Two collections, *One Finger Too Many* (Random House) and *Cursing Bagels* (Faber & Faber), are available in English. A book of conversations with Martin Meyer, *Ausgerechnet ich*, was published in 2001, with the English version (2002) bearing the title, *Me, of All People*.