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Cal Performances Announces 2008/09 Season

**The West Coast Premiere of Mark Morris's *Romeo & Juliet*;
Cecilia Bartoli; Yo-Yo Ma; Dawn Upshaw & Peter Sellars; Jake Heggie's
Three Decembers; and the Druid Theatre Company
Highlight Robert Cole's Final Season as Director of Cal Performances**

2008/09 SEASON INCLUDES A TWO-WEEK RESIDENCY BY MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY; THE RETURN OF MORRIS'S *L'ALLEGRO, IL PENNEROSO ED IL MODERATO*; THE KIROV & BOLSHOI BALLET COMPANIES; LAURIE ANDERSON; SALVATORE LICITRA; AND ROBERT LEPAGE

Debuts by Angela Gheorghiu, Sergey Khachatryan, Conrad Tao, Nicole Cabell and Danielle de Niese, plus performances by Julia Fischer with Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Circus Oz, Ang Lee, Milton Nascimento, Cesaria Evora, Dianne Reeves and Jordi Savall are included in the diverse lineup

BERKELEY, CA—Director **Robert Cole** today announced plans for Cal Performances 2008/09 season, the organization's 103rd year of presenting outstanding performing arts programs and Cole's final season at the helm of one of the country's most influential performing arts centers. In the coming year, the UC Berkeley-based presenting, commissioning and producing organization will host 64 programs and more than 110 performances featuring the world's most distinguished performers, talented emerging artists and newly created work in ten series—Classical & Modern Dance, Theater, Recital, Opera, Chamber Music & Orchestra, Music Before 1850, World Stage, Jazz, 20th Century Music & Beyond, and Strictly Speaking.

“From the beginning of my tenure at Cal Performances I have had two primary goals,” says Director **Robert Cole**. “First, I wanted to strengthen Cal Performances’ presence as a vital part of the fabric of this prestigious university, integrating the performing arts with the academic life and providing opportunities for students to experience and learn about cultures and artists with which they were not familiar. A well-rounded education must include exposure to the arts, one of the best hopes for increasing understanding in our complex world. Simultaneously, I wanted to take Bay Area audiences to the highest level of artistic experience, one where the very

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best artists in the world could be seen alongside gifted newcomers and exciting, newly-commissioned work. I believe we've taken substantial strides toward both of those goals. Looking back on these 23 years, I am so privileged to have been a part of this vibrant institution, and I look forward to this next season as a time when our programming reaches a higher level of excellence, as well as a broad and enthusiastic audience."

"I am pleased to announce that we will be co-presenting three engagements with the San Francisco Opera: two concerts, one each with soprano **Angela Gheorghiu** and tenor **Salvatore Licitra**, both featuring the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. The third event is **Jake Heggie's** new chamber opera *Three Decembers* with the magnificent **Frederica von Stade.**"

In addition to the public performance schedule, Cal Performances presents more than 100 education and community events annually, including the highly popular *SchoolTime* and *Cal Performances in the Classroom* programs; *AileyCamp*; *Sightlines* pre- and post-performance talks; *Key Notes* music lecture series; and *Family Fare* performances, which offer half-price tickets for children 16 and younger (see pages 13 & 14).

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events in 2008/09 season feature three celebrated artists, one in her Cal Performances debut, and two favorites who have performed many times in Berkeley during Robert Cole's tenure. **Angela Gheorghiu** makes her first appearance at Cal Performances when she opens the 103rd season with a concert that includes the San Francisco Opera Orchestra under the baton of **Marco Armiliato**, who has conducted ten productions for the Opera since 1997; this event is presented in association with the San Francisco Opera (Sept. 6). For mezzo-soprano **Cecilia Bartoli**, an enduring presence at Cal Performances since her 1991 debut at Hertz Hall, her February 22 recital will be one of only three performances in the United States during the 2008/09 season. The impeccable musicianship of **Yo-Yo Ma** has been on display in numerous combinations in Berkeley, including those with his Silk Road ensembles, Mark Morris Dance Group and in small concert settings. This season, Ma's solo performance will honor Cole's final season when he performs the Bach Cello Suites 1, 3 and 5 May 15 at First Congregational Church. (This event is on sale exclusively to members of Cal Performances' Producers Circle, donors of \$1,200 and above. To become a member of the Producers Circle call 510.643.7053.)

DANCE

The Dance series opens appropriately with a new work by **Mark Morris** co-commissioned by Cal Performances: the West Coast premiere of *Romeo & Juliet, On Motifs of Shakespeare*. This landmark ballet is set to Prokofiev's newly discovered original version of *Romeo and Juliet* and will feature Mark Morris Dance Group, 20 minutes of previously unheard music and—notably—a happy ending (Sept. 25–28). The venerable **Kirov Ballet & Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre** will bring two programs to Berkeley along with a full complement of illustrious dancers including Diana Vishneva, Uliana Lopatkina, Leonid Sarafanov, Alina Somova and Victoria Tereshkina. The mixed repertory program October 14 & 15 will include Act 3 from *Raymonda*; the Grand Pas from *Paquita*; and “The Kingdom of the Shades” from *La Bayadère*. The comic ballet *Don Quixote* will be presented October 17–19.

Merce Cunningham Dance Company continues its long and rich relationship with Cal Performances when the company returns for a two-week residency and four separate programs showcasing Cunningham's work. Dances to be performed include *BIPED* (1999), co-commissioned by Cal Performances; 20 and 40 minute versions of *eyeSpace* (2006–07); *Crises* (1960, revived 2006); *Split Sides* (2003); and *Suite for Five* (1953–1958, revived in 2002); plus three works set to the music of **John Cage**: *Views on Stage* (2004), *Second Hand* (1970, revived 2008) and *XOVER* (2007). Additionally, collaborations with some of the most creative minds on the Berkeley campus are being planned for the residency (see page 12) (Nov. 3–15).

The ten-member **Pascal Rioult Dance Theater** returns to Berkeley with two programs featuring six works, half of which are West Coast premieres. French-born, New York City-based Rioult has a dance vocabulary with roots in the European tradition and in American modern dance (Rioult danced with Martha Graham Dance Company for nine years.). The West Coast premieres include two works set to music by Stravinsky, *Symphony of Psalms* (2007) and *Les Noces* (2005); and one piece set to J. S. Bach's *The Art of Fugue* (2008). Also on the program are two works featuring the music by Ravel: the romantic *Wien* (1995) and the sleek and highly acclaimed *Boléro*, co-commissioned by Cal Performances in 2002 (Jan. 30 & 31).

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater marks its 50th anniversary with two special performances featuring the award-winning a cappella group **Sweet Honey in the Rock** live on-

stage. The Ailey company will perform a new dance set to original music by this Grammy-winning vocal quintet. The engagement also includes multiple programs of Ailey classics, the beloved *Revelations* and new works (March 5–9). Choreographer **Boris Eifman** has based a number of his ballets on classic Russian literature. In 2007, Cal Performances hosted his *Anna Karenina* and *The Seagull*. This season, **Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg** brings the American premiere of *Onegin*, a two act ballet inspired by Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin* and set to music by Piotr Illyich Tchaikovsky and Alexander Sitkovetsky (May 1–3).

A highlight of Robert Cole's final season will be the return of one of Mark Morris's most admired works: *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* (1988). Set to the music of Handel, it is considered a masterpiece about which the *San Francisco Chronicle* wrote, "One great piece of music is now linked across the centuries with dazzling visions of dance." The work includes the poetry of John Milton, and will feature the **Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra** under the direction of **Jane Glover** (May 28–31). The final offering of dance in the 2008/09 season is the legendary **Bolshoi Ballet** with its "profoundly moving" (*The Guardian*, London) production of *La Bayadère*, with choreography by Marius Petipa. The 2009 tour will be the first under the leadership of Yuri Burlaka, the Bolshoi's new Artistic Director. Berkeley Symphony Orchestra will join with the Bolshoi Ballet for these performances (June 4–7).

THEATER

Ireland's distinguished **Druid Theatre Company** makes its first trip to the Bay Area on Cal Performances' 2008/09 season. The troupe from Galway produces groundbreaking productions of classic and new works, drawing extensively from the Irish dramatic repertoire. In what *The Irish Times* described as "one of the greatest achievements in the history of Irish theater," the Company recently presented the first-ever staging of John Millington Synge's entire theatrical canon. Tony Award-winning founder and director Garry Hynes will bring a double-bill of Synge plays: *The Playboy of the Western World* and *The Shadow of the Glen*, masterpieces by Ireland's greatest playwright, to the Roda Theatre, Berkeley Rep (Oct. 8–12).

A favorite of Cal Performances audiences—and fans around the world—**Laurie Anderson** will bring her newest work, *Homeland*, to Zellerbach Hall October 24 & 25. In this series of songs and stories, Anderson creates a political portrait of contemporary American

culture. Her signature theatrical storytelling style of singing, talking and playing her electric violin and keyboard will be on display in this performance co-commissioned by Cal Performances. Anderson recently won the 2007 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize, awarded to an artist who has made an outstanding contribution to the beauty of the world and to people's enjoyment and understanding of life.

It was in 2001 that Cal Performances first brought Canadian director-auteur **Robert Lepage** to the Bay Area in his acclaimed drama *the far side of the moon*. Lepage's original approach to theater has won him international recognition through his use of new technologies and insightful script development. *The Blue Dragon*, which won the 2007 Europe Theatre Prize, follows the ongoing story of Pierre Lamontagne, the central figure in his 1985 *The Dragons' Trilogy*. This three-person play explores the paradoxes of modern China and will be performed by Lepage, his longtime collaborator Marie Michaud and dancer Tai Wei Foo (June 9–13).

RECITAL

The 2008/09 Recital series offers an even dozen performances by vocalists and instrumentalists, ranging from the impressive 13-year-old pianist **Conrad Tao** to an international roster of revered veterans at the peak of their musical powers. Featured vocalists include tenor **Salvatore Licitra** and his "expansive, powerful and superbly shaped" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) voice in a concert co-presented with the San Francisco Opera, with members of the Opera orchestra and Fellows from its Adler program (Jan. 10). Two young and noteworthy sopranos make their Cal Performances' debuts in the 2008/09 season: **Danielle de Niese**, who drew praise at her 2005 Glyndebourne Festival debut singing Cleopatra in Handel's *Giulio Cesare* (Feb. 8); and **Nicole Cabell**, who won the 2005 BBC Singer of the World competition (Mar. 1). Soprano **Angelika Kirschlager**, a Cal Performances' favorite, returns with pianist Malcolm Martineau performing works by Schubert, Wolf, Korngold and Weill (Apr. 19).

Eight outstanding instrumentalists will be featured, beginning at the top of the season with two piano greats: **Rudolph Buchbinder**, who will continue his multi-concert performance of Beethoven's sonatas for the fifth consecutive season at Hertz Hall (Sept. 21), and **Richard Goode**, serving up a feast of music by Bach and Chopin (Oct. 5). **Piotr Anderszewski**, who performed spring 2008 at Cal Performances with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra, will make his

recital debut at Hertz Hall with a program of Mozart and Bach (Oct. 19). Two weeks later, 13-year-old pianist/composer **Conrad Tao** makes his Bay Area recital debut in Hertz Hall with a program of Beethoven, Corigliano, Rachmaninoff and Chopin (Nov. 2). November also hosts violinist **Vadim Repin** and pianist **Nikolai Lugansky** who first appeared together in Berkeley in 2006. This season they perform Debussy's Sonata in G minor; Prokofiev's Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 80; and Beethoven's Sonata No. 9 in A major ("Kreutzer") (Nov. 9).

Violinist **Sergey Khachatryan** caught the eye of the music world when he won the 2000 Jean Sibelius Competition in Helsinki, becoming the youngest artist so honored in that contest. He comes to Cal Performances with a program of Bach's Sonata No. 3 in C major and Shostakovich's Sonata, Op. 134; and his sister **Lusine Khachatryan** joins him for Brahms's Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 1 in G major, Op. 78 (Jan. 18). Two universally lauded pianists conclude the series: **Murray Perahia**, an artist who has "conquered all, illuminated all" (*Los Angeles Times*) returns to Zellerbach Hall on March 19; and **Krystian Zimerman**, with his "jaw droppingly virtuosic playing" (*Los Angeles Times*), performs on April 24.

CHAMBER MUSIC & ORCHESTRA

The Chamber Music & Orchestra series opens with **Leon Botstein** conducting the **Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra** with **Robert McDuffie** on violin. Since its founding in 1940, the orchestra has championed music from the Baroque to the contemporary. The ensemble's first Cal Performances concert, titled "Jewish Immigration to the West Coast," consists of works by Ernst Toch, Gustav Mahler and Miklós Rózsa (Oct. 26). The **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields** performs with one of its favorite guest leaders, *Gramophone's* 2007 Artist of the Year, violinist **Julia Fischer**. The ensemble celebrates its 50th season with two Bach concertos and works by Britten and Walton (Feb. 14). The esteemed **Takács Quartet** returns with a pair of concerts: February 15, in a program featuring clarinetist **Richard Stoltzman** performing Mozart's Clarinet Quintet in A major, K. 581; Schumann's Quartet Op. 41, No. 3; and Bartók's String Quartet No. 2; and March 8, when the group performs with cellist **Peter Wyrick** in a program of Haydn's String Quartet in F major, Op. 77, No. 2; Bartók's Quartet No. 3; and Schubert's String Quintet in C major, D. 956.

The **Brentano String Quartet**'s "velvety tone and interpretive intensity" (*The New York Times*) will be heard when the ensemble returns to Berkeley March 13. Haydn's String Quartet in D minor, Op. 76, No. 2 ("Quinten") opens the program, and with pianist **Peter Serkin**, the group will perform its recently commissioned New Piano Quintet by American composer Charles Wuorinen. Then baritone **Richard Lalli** joins in for Schoenberg's *Ode to Napoleon* and the concert concludes with Beethoven's *Grosse Fuge*, Op. 133. At the end of the month, the **Estonian National Symphony Orchestra** makes its Cal Performances' debut with pianist **Joyce Yang** as guest artist and Pärt's *Cantus In Memoriam Benjamin Britten*; Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18; and Sibelius' Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 43 (Mar. 29).

With pianist **Menahem Pressler** having recently played his final concert with the revered Beaux Arts Trio, Cal Performances is particularly pleased to welcome him as guest artist with the **American String Quartet**. The program includes Dvořák's Piano Quintet in A major, Op. 81 and one of Mozart's most popular quartets, the C major, K. 465 ("Dissonance") (Apr. 5). The internationally recognized countertenor **Andreas Scholl** is guest artist with the **Australian Chamber Orchestra** when the group returns to Berkeley with a program of arias from Handel; Haydn's Symphony No. 44 in E minor ("Trauer"); Smalley's *Footwork* (Bay Area premiere); and Haas's *From the Monkey Mountains Suite* (Apr. 26). The Cal Performances' debut of San Francisco-based **Cypress String Quartet** closes the series. The concert, titled "The Last Quartets of Great Composers," includes works by Haydn, Bartók and Beethoven (May 3).

OPERA

Cal Performances' presents three opera events beginning with the Bay Area concert debut of soprano **Angela Gheorghiu** (see Special Events, page 2) (Sept. 6). Mezzo-soprano **Frederica von Stade** stars in the West Coast premiere of composer **Jake Heggie**'s new chamber opera *Three Decembers* based on a play by Terrence McNally. The opera explores the strained relationship between a famous actress and her two adult children, one of whom is a gay man whose partner is dying from AIDS. "Heggie has given the distinguished mezzo-soprano a role of a lifetime, and she fills it with style, charm, musical savvy and great singing," said the *Houston Chronicle* of the production's February 2008 world premiere at Houston Grand Opera. The performance will feature a ten-piece ensemble drawn from the San Francisco Opera Orchestra

(Dec. 11–14). Finally, tenor **Salvatore Licitra** performs with members of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra featuring San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows (see Recitals, page 5) (Jan. 10).

MUSIC BEFORE 1850

The 2008/09 early music series offers three internationally lauded ensembles, two longtime favorites at Cal Performances and one making its Bay Area debut. The reigning star in today's early music firmament, viola da gamba virtuoso **Jordi Savall**, will return with his ensemble **Le Concert des Nations** for two concerts. Program A will include music by Lully, Biber, Avison, Corelli, D. Scarlatti, de Hita and Boccherini on February 27; and Savall has titled program B *The Stage Music in the Plays of William Shakespeare* featuring music by Johnson, Locke and Purcell (instrumental music from *The Fairy Queen*) on February 28. **The Tallis Scholars**, under the direction of **Peter Phillips**, have established themselves as the finest exponents of Renaissance vocal polyphony through their numerous recordings and worldwide performances. They return to Cal Performances with *Music for Double Choir* featuring works by Palestrina, Philips, Lassus, Gibbons, Phinot, A. Lobo, Mouton and H. Praetorius (Mar. 28). From Austria comes the period instrument **Quatuor Mosaïques**. The group was founded in 1985 by members of the highly respected Concentus Musicus and has been honored often, including with the Diapason d'Or, Choc du Monde de la Musique and *Gramophone* awards, among others. Schubert's Quartet No. 12 in C minor, D. 703, *Quartettsatz*, and Quartet No. 14 in D minor, D. 810, *Der Tod und das Mädchen* ("Death and the Maiden"), along with a Mozart quartet to be announced will be performed (Apr. 22).

20TH CENTURY MUSIC & BEYOND

Cal Performances' 20th Century Music & Beyond series boasts three innovative and provocative concerts. First is **György Kurtág's** *Kafka Fragments* based on excerpts from Franz Kafka's diaries and letters, directed by **Peter Sellars** and performed by the adventurous soprano **Dawn Upshaw** and violinist **Geoff Nuttall**. The production premiered at Carnegie Hall in 2005 with the same artists, and Cal Performances will be one of only three venues that will present this production during the 2008/09 season (Nov. 23 & 24). Berkeley's own and a longtime champion of new music, pianist **Sarah Cahill**, will perform works from her ongoing project *A Sweeter Music*. Cahill has commissioned 18 contemporary composers, including Frederic Rzewski, Yoko Ono and Terry Riley, to write music envisioning peace. The title of the project is taken

from a speech by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “peace represents a sweeter music, a cosmic melody that is far superior to the discords of war” (Jan. 25). The series concludes with a concert by **Kronos Quartet** that features the West Coast premiere of *Widows and Lovers* by Israeli composer Aviya Kopelman, co-commissioned by Cal Performances as part of Kronos’s Under 30 project. Also on the program is Hanna Kulenty’s String Quartet No. 4 (*A Cradle Song*) and Aleksandra Vrebalov’s...*hold me, neighbor, in this storm...* (Feb. 1).

WORLD STAGE

Cal Performances’ 2008/09 World Stage series is launched by the incomparable **Cesaria Evora** whose Cape Verde *morna* music fuses Latin jazz and Afro beats with traces of Portuguese *fado* and Brazilian *modinha* (ballads). “Evora really only sings two ways: well or magnificently,” observed *Rolling Stone* (Oct. 9 & 10). Grammy Award-winner **Milton Nascimento** will be joined by the **Jobim Trio** comprised of Paulo and Daniel Jobim (son and grandson of the great Antonio Carlos Jobim) and Paulo Braga, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Brazil’s home-grown beat, the *bossa nova* (Nov. 1). The **Golden Dragon Acrobats** combine award-winning gymnastics, music, dance and dazzling theatrical techniques that “wow” the whole family. “There is a precision and beauty about everything these performers do” (*The Washington Post*) (Nov. 28–30). As the premier dancer in Ballet Nacional de España, **José Porcel** has taken flamenco and Andalusian dances to stages around the world. The nine dancers of **Ballet Flamenco José Porcel** perform a mix of traditional and contemporary flamenco works to a live band of vocalists, percussionists and guitarists (Dec. 5 & 6).

In December, Cal Performances presents two concerts primed for the holidays. First, **Pomegranates & Figs** celebrates the rich traditions of Sephardic, Mizrahi and Yiddish music. The production features **Nikitov**, a quartet formed six years ago by Yiddish chanteuse Niki Jacobs and gypsy jazz violin virtuoso Jelle van Tongeren from the Netherlands; and **Teslim**, with violinist Kaila Flexer (founder and producer of *Klezmer Mania!*) and Gari Hegedus on (mostly) plucked strings, including Turkish *saz*, *oud*, Greek *lauoto* and hand drums (Dec. 20). The next afternoon, the Grammy Award-winning **Mariachi Los Camperos** takes the stage. Under the direction of **Nati Cano**, the band includes the finest musicians from Mexico in *Fiesta Navidad*, a rousing Christmas celebration inspired by south-of-the-border traditions (Dec. 21).

The New Year springs into action when the **National Acrobats of China** bound onto Zellerbach Hall stage. Always a family pleaser, the company has enthralled audiences in 30 different countries with its unique mix of acrobatics, dance, drumming, martial arts and juggling (Jan. 17 & 18). **Noche Flamenca** was founded in Madrid 15 years ago by director Martín Santangelo and his wife **Soledad Barrio**. *The New York Times*'s Alastair Macauley summed it up best when he said, "...I have encountered many dance companies, and many more individual dancers....Of these there has been none I have been so glad to discover as Noche Flamenca and, above all, its lead dancer, Soledad Barrio. I can think of no current ballet dancer in the world as marvelous as she" (Jan. 23 & 24). **Circus Oz** was the surprise hit of Cal Performances' fall 2007 line-up, and the troupe will return to celebrate its 30th birthday. Original music played by a live band, daring feats, social satire and its trademark Aussie sense of whackiness makes this "a show as inventively funny as it is physically impressive" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) (Feb. 5–8). Then, performing a variety of Afro-Cuban musical styles, including classic *son montuno*, contemporary *timba* and swinging big band and jazz, the **Afro-Cuban All Stars** return led by Juan De Marcos González of *Buena Vista Social Club* (Feb. 25).

March ushers in three events that are Cal Performances' favorites. **Ladysmith Black Mambazo** combines the rhythms and harmonies of South Africa with the sounds and sentiments of gospel music (Mar. 12). **Simon Shaheen** is one of today's leading Arab composers, multi-instrumentalists and scholars. His March 21 concert, *Aswat – Celebrating the Golden Age of Arab Music* (1920–1950), will feature leading Arab singers, including **Ibrahim Azzam** and **Khalil Abonula** (Palestine), **Sonia M'barek** (Tunisia) and **Rima Khcheich** (Lebanon) and classic melodies from the period. Then, the San Francisco-based Hawaiian dance company **Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu** will perform the hulu as a full theatrical event in a concert that blends traditional dance and contemporary sensibilities (Mar. 28).

Closing the World Stage series is Mali's most popular singing star **Habib Koité** and his band **Bamada** (a nickname for residents of Mali's capital Bamako). Koité has developed his own style of music that is infused with the traditions of his country but in tune with contemporary music of the day (Apr. 3).

JAZZ

The 2008/09 Jazz series opens with **Blue Note Records 70th Anniversary Tour** featuring musical director **Bill Charlap** (piano), **Ravi Coltrane** (tenor saxophone), **Pat Martino** (guitar), **Nicholas Payton** (trumpet), **Steve Wilson** (alto saxophone), **Peter Washington** (bass) and **Lewis Nash** (drums) (Jan. 15). Next, pianist **Chick Corea**, fusion guitarist **John McLaughlin** and bassist **Christian McBride** combine their talents for an evening of modern jazz (Mar. 21). Three time Grammy Award-winner **Dianne Reeves** returns to Zellerbach Hall with her “amazing voice, one of the best that jazz has boasted” (*Boston Globe*) (Apr. 25).

STRICTLY SPEAKING

Cal Performances’ Strictly Speaking series opens with two men who can appreciate a compelling mystery, albeit from very different worlds. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Seymour Hersh** has examined the abuse of power in the name of national security, and his work includes groundbreaking coverage of the Abu Ghraib prison abuse in Iraq, the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, the CIA’s bombing of Cambodia and Henry Kissinger’s wiretapping of his own staff. Most recently, Hersh’s articles in *The New Yorker* have probed the underside of the Iraq war and the intelligence and military quagmire caused by the conflict (NEW DATE Oct. 7). Scottish fiction writer **Alexander McCall Smith** is known worldwide as the author of the bestselling Precious Ramotswe series (*The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency*) as well as 60 other titles, including short story collections, children’s tales and two witty series featuring the intrepid sleuth Isabel Dalhousie and punctilious professor Dr. Moritz-Maria von Igelfeld (Oct. 1).

A conversation with two-time Academy Award-winning director **Ang Lee** (*Brokeback Mountain* and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*) and his producing partner, screenwriter **James Schamus**, will offer a look into their creative process and collaborations. This talk is presented in association with the College of Letters & Sciences’ *On the Same Page* program (NEW DATE Mar. 16). *Wait, Wait...Don’t Tell Me*, NPR’s weekly whacky current events quiz show, returns to Zellerbach Hall to tape two programs. Hosted by Peter Sagal, this fast-paced and oddly informative program is heard weekly by more than two million listeners (Feb. 19 & 20). Finally, another name familiar to public radio fans, **David Rakoff**, returns to Cal Performances. Regular contributions to Ira Glass’s *This American Life* (they appeared together on campus February 2008) and his *New York Times* bestsellers *Fraud* and *Don’t Get Too Comfortable* have

established Rakoff as one the most insightful social commentators of the day (Apr. 4).

EDUCATION AND HUMANITIES EVENTS

Audiences at Cal Performances can participate in an array of campus and community education programs to enrich their dance, music and theater experiences. From November 3–15, the **Merce Cunningham Dance Company** (MCDC) will engage in a wide-ranging residency that will include collaborations with some of the most innovative groups at UC Berkeley, including the Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies; Center for New Media; Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society; Center for New Music and Audio Technologies; and Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive. Anticipated activities include a multimedia post-performance Student Happening in Pauley Ballroom, film screenings, DanceForms software seminars, dance and sound master classes, production-related workshops, public discussions, youth programs and an MCDC-related visual art exhibition. A full schedule will be announced summer 2008.

The works of three premier Russian ballet companies performing this season—Bolshoi, Eifman and Kirov—will be explored in the **Russian Classical Dance Lecture Series: *Don Quixote*, *Eugene Onegin*, *La Bayadère*** presented by Cal Performances, the UC Berkeley Slavic Center and TDSP; dates and times to be announced.

A **Latin Music Series** program will be hosted by jazz and Latin music specialist Jesse “Chuy” Varela in conversations complementing performances by Ballet Flamenco José Porcel (Fri., Dec 5); Noche Flamenca (Fri., Jan 23); Afro-Cuban All Stars (Wed., Feb 25); and Chick Corea, Christian McBride and John McLaughlin (Sat., Mar 21). With extensive background information, guest interviews and musical illustration, these lively talks will take place at 5–6:30 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall lobby mezzanine prior to the performances.

The 2008/09 season’s **Key Notes** lecture series focuses on **Music for the Stage**. **Robert Cole** and Professor **Richard Taruskin** will discuss Mark Morris’s new *Romeo & Juliet*, *On Motifs of Shakespeare* based on Prokofiev’s original music and story concept by Soviet dramatist Sergei Radlov (Sept. 26, 5–6:30 p.m.). Composer **Jake Heggie** and librettist **Gene Scheer** will talk about their new opera *Three Decembers* co-presented with the San Francisco Opera and

Houston Grand Opera (Dec. 12, 5–6:30 p.m.). And director **Peter Sellars** will share his approach to *Kafka Fragments* and the music of György Kurtág (Nov. 23, 4–5:30 p.m.). These talks are accompanied by light refreshments and are free and open to the public.

SIGHTLINES TALKS

Cal Performances' engaging *Sightlines* talks are delivered by prominent artists and UC Berkeley resident or visiting scholars. *Sightlines* pre- and post-performance events are free to ticketholders for the designated performances, and include the following 2008/09 season events (additional talks are scheduled throughout the year):

- **Rudolf Buchbinder** pre-performance talk by musicologist Paul M. Ellison, San Francisco State University (Sept. 21, 2–2:30 p.m.)
- **Richard Goode** pre-performance talk (Oct. 5, 2–2:30 p.m.)
- **Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra** pre-performance talk by Professor Beth Levy, UC Davis Department of Music (Oct. 26, 6–6:30 p.m.)
- **Kronos Quartet** post-performance discussion with the artists (Feb. 1)
- **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields with violinist Julia Fischer** pre-performance talk by musicologist John Prescott (Feb. 14, 7–7:30 p.m.)
- **Takács Quartet with clarinetist Richard Stolzman** pre-performance talk (Feb. 15, 2–2:30 p.m.)
- **Jordi Savall and Le Concert des Nations** pre-performance discussion with Jordi Savall and Professor Kate van Orden, UC Berkeley Department of Music (Feb. 28, 7–7:30 p.m.)
- **Takács Quartet with cellist Peter Wyrick** pre-performance talk by musicologist John Prescott (Mar. 8, 2–2:30 p.m.)
- **Brentano String Quartet with piano Peter Serkin and baritone Richard Lalli** pre-performance talk by Camille Peters, UC Berkeley Department of Music (Mar. 13, 7–7:30 p.m.)
- **Tallis Scholars** pre-performance talk by Artistic Director Peter Phillips and Paul M. Ellison, San Francisco State University musicologist (Mar 28, 7–7:30 p.m.)
- **American String Quartet** pre-performance talk by Professor Beth Levy, UC Davis Department of Music (Apr. 5, 2–2:30 p.m.)
- **Quatuor Mosaïques** pre-performance talk by Professor Nicholas Mathew, UC Berkeley Department of Music (Apr. 22, 7–7:30 p.m.)
- **Cypress String Quartet** pre-performance talk by the artists (May 3, 2–2:30 p.m.)

TICKETS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Subscriptions go on sale **May 1, 2008**, and can be purchased by series in discount packages ranging from \$50.00 to \$360.00. Series subscribers save 15% off single ticket prices, and a 10% discount on additional single tickets purchased at any time throughout the season. Patrons may also select “Choose-Your-Own” subscription packages of six or more events on a single order, receiving 10% off single ticket prices. The Family Fare series offers 50% off single ticket prices for children 16 and younger. **Family Fare** events for the 2008/09 season are **Golden**

Dragon Acrobats (Sat., Nov. 29 at 2:00 p.m.), **National Acrobats of China** (Sat., Jan. 17 at 2:00 p.m.); **Circus Oz 30th Birthday Bash!** (Sat., Feb. 7 at 2:00 p.m.) and **Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu** (Sat., Mar. 28 at 2:00 p.m.). Subscription orders may be mailed, faxed to Cal Performances' Ticket Office at 510.643.2359, or phoned in to 510.642.9988. Single tickets go on sale to **E-mail Club** members on **August 3** and the general public on **August 10**. Single tickets will be available for purchase by phone, in person, by mail, fax, or on-line. UCB students receive a 50% discount on single tickets. Cal Alumni Association members, UCB faculty and staff, senior citizens, and other students receive a \$5.00 discount (Special Events excluded). Discounts are also available for Groups of 10 or more (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at 510.642.9988, e-mail a brochure request to tickets@calperfs.berkeley.edu or visit the web site at www.calperformances.org.

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Cal Performances' 2008/09 Season sponsor is Wells Fargo Bank.

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Web link to 2008/09 season photos:

http://cpinfo.berkeley.edu/information/press/season_announcement_0809

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