

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

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CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
THE ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC, LED BY HARPSICHORDIST
RICHARD EGARR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1 AT 8:00 P.M. IN FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SIGHTLINES: PRE-CONCERT TALK BY RICHARD EGARR AT 7:00 P.M.

BERKELEY, September 18, 2003 – Harpsichordist **Richard Egarr** leads and performs two of Bach's harpsichord concertos with celebrated period instrument ensemble **The Academy of Ancient Music** on **Saturday, November 1 at 8:00 p.m.** in Berkeley's First Congregational Church. Egarr and the eight musicians of the Academy of Ancient Music perform **Bach's Harpsichord Concerto in D minor, BWV 1052**, and **Harpsichord Concerto in A major, BWV 1055**. Egarr will give a free *Sightlines* talk for ticketholders before the Saturday evening performance, from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

RICHARD EGARR

One of the most exciting and versatile musicians of his generation, the repertoire of British keyboardist **Richard Egarr** ranges from 15th-century organ works to modern piano compositions. He has performed as a soloist, chamber musician, and conductor throughout Europe, the United States, and Asia. He has given solo and concert performances in such venues as Vienna's Musikverein, Berlin's Philharmonie, and London's Wigmore Hall. Since 1998 Egarr has been a regular guest director of the Amsterdam Bach Soloists and the Hanover Band, and this season he guest directs the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Portland Baroque Orchestra, Bochum Symphoniker and the Dutch Radio Symphony Orchestra. Additional projects include Handel's *Messiah* with the Portland Baroque Orchestra; the Brandenburg Concertos with the Vienna Philharmonic; Purcell's *Fairy Queen* with the Orchestra of the Paris Conservatory; and Handel's *La Resurrezione* with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. In addition to a highly successful recording and performance collaboration with violinist

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Andrew Manze (the two appeared at Cal Performances in November 2001), Egarr has performed in recital with Dutch jazz pianist Guus Janssen.

Egarr's discography includes the *Gramophone* Award-winning sonatas of Pandolfi; a Bach recital disc (EMI); and the first complete recording of keyboard works by Johann Jakob Froberger. Recordings with Andrew Manze and Jaap ter Linden include sonatas by Rébel, Handel, and Bach (Harmonia Mundi). With the Academy of Ancient Music Egarr has recorded works by Geminiani and the complete Bach harpsichord concertos. Upon its release in 2002, *The Times* (London) gave the latter two-disc set a five-star review, calling it "a triumph from every point of view." The concertos on Cal Performances November 1 program appear on this recording.

THE ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC

The original **Academy of Ancient Music (AAM)** was established in 1726 for the purpose of studying and performing "old" music—defined initially as anything composed at least a century prior, but soon expanded to include more contemporary composers like Handel. The modern revival of the AAM was founded by Christopher Hogwood in 1973 to bring together specialists of every branch of Baroque and classical performance style, utilizing instruments of the appropriate period in the music performed. The ensemble is especially well known for its pioneer recordings with Hogwood for Decca: it was the first orchestra to record all of Mozart's symphonies on period instruments. The AAM went on to record the complete piano concertos and symphonies of Beethoven, and is in the midst of recording the complete Haydn symphonies and Mozart piano concertos with fortepianist Robert Levin. Under Paul Goodwin the AAM has recorded a selection of Christmas music by Schütz and his contemporaries, Mozart's rare *Singspiel Zaïde*, and the AAM's first commission, John Taverner's *Eternity's Sunrise*. This commission led to a second new Taverner work and recording, *Total Eclipse*, followed by David Bedford's *Like a Strand of Scarlet* in 2001. In March 2003 the AAM premiered John Woolrich's *Arcangelo*, written to celebrate the 350th anniversary of Corelli's birth. Celebrating their 30th anniversary in 2003, highlights of the 2003/04 season include tours of the United States and Europe with Richard Egarr, and a special celebration of Taverner's 60th birthday in London under Paul Goodwin.

The musicians of the Academy of Ancient Music include **Rachel Brown** (flute); **Pavlo Beznosiuk** and **Rodolfo Richter** (violins); **Trevor Jones** (viola); **Alison McGillivray** (cello); **Malachy Robinson** (double bass); and **William Carter** (theorbo).

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Richard Egarr** and the **Academy of Ancient Music** performing **Saturday, November 1 at 8:00 p.m.** in First Congregational Church 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.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty, staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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San Francisco Chronicle, *San Francisco* magazine, and KDFC Classical 102.1 FM are season media sponsors of Cal Performances' 2003/04 performing arts season.

All Cal Performances programs are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

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(calendar information next page)

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, November 1, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.

SIGHTLINES

First Congregational Church

2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Pre-concert talk by Academy of Ancient Music director and harpsichordist **Richard Egarr**. *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.

These events are free to ticketholders.

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Saturday, November 1 at 8:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church

2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Music Before 1850

Richard Egarr, director and harpsichord
Academy of Ancient Music

Program:

Bach/Harpsichord Concerto in D minor, BWV 1052

Harpsichord Concerto in A major, BWV 1055

Tickets: \$42.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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