

FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE

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**THE VOICE OF NORDIC SILVER,  
ANNE SOFIE VON OTTER  
MAKES HER CAL PERFORMANCES RECITAL DEBUT WITH PIANIST BENGT FORSBERG,  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2004 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**SWEDISH MEZZO-SOPRANO SINGS MUSIC BY PETERSON-BERGER, STENHAMMAR,  
CHAMINADE, BERLIOZ, MAHLER, KORNGOLD AND WEILL**

**BERKELEY, December 10, 2003** – Cal Performances’ 2003/04 Recital Series continues with a singer of exceptional versatility and one of the most sought-after artists on the concert stage today, Swedish mezzo-soprano **Anne Sofie von Otter**, on **Friday, January 23, 2004 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Acclaimed for her purity of tone, colorful timbre and exquisite sense of lyricism, she has conquered the stages of the most prestigious festivals, opera houses, and concert halls around the globe. Well-regarded for operatic “trouser roles” in her early career—Octavian, Idamante, Alceste, and Cherubino, among others—Anne Sofie von Otter nevertheless broke out of the ghetto that frequently confines mezzo-sopranos, and has achieved accolades for an impressive repertoire ranging from Schubert lieder to an erotically-charged Carmen, baroque beauties to 20<sup>th</sup>-century art songs, J.S. Bach to Tom Waits. Above all, it is her love of the song and her ability to communicate the composer’s and lyricist’s intentions so precisely that distinguishes her exceptional artistry from so many others.

With pianist **Bengt Forsberg**, her longtime collaborator, Anne Sofie von Otter’s January 23 recital will open with songs in her native language by fellow countrymen **Wilhelm Peterson-Berger** (“Intet är som väntanstider” from *Fridolins visor*, No. 5, and Serenad) and **Wilhem Stenhammar** (“Jutta kommer till Folkungarna,” Op. 37, No. 1, “I Iönnens skymning,” Op. 37, No. 2, and “Gammal nederländare,” Op. 20, No. 3). The program continues with **Hector Berlioz**’s “Le coucher du soleil,” Op. 2, No. 1, and “Le chant des Bretons,” Op. 13, No. 5; **Gustav Mahler**’s “Blicke mir nicht in die Lieder”, and “Ich ging mit Lust” and “Aus! Aus!” from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*; and **Erich Wolfgang Korngold**’s “Liebesbriefchen” Op. 9, No. 4, “Old Spanish” Op. 38, No. 3, “Sterbelied” Op. 14, No. 1 and “Versuchung,” Op. 18, No. 3.

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Three songs by a favorite of Ms. von Otter's, **Cécile Chaminade**, the first female composer to be awarded the French Legion of Honor (1913), are also included—"Ronde d'amour", "Te souviens-tu?", and "L'amour captive"—and the program closes with the saucy and smoldering stylings of **Kurt Weill**, in "Nannas Lied", "Seeräuber Jenny" from *Die Dreigroschenoper*, and "Speak Low" and "Foolish Heart" from *One Touch of Venus*. Mr. Forsberg will also command the concert stage in solo piano pieces by **Francis Poulenc**, and other works to be announced.

### ANNE SOFIE von OTTER

Intelligence, integrity, clarity, and expressiveness are some of terms most frequently heard in regard to Anne Sofie von Otter's musical talent. Considered one of the finest singers of her generation, she is continually in demand by the world's major conductors, orchestras, opera houses and recording companies. A native of Sweden, her vocal studies began in Stockholm and continued with Vera Rozsa at London's Guildhall School of Music. She achieved a reputation as one of opera's great mezzo-sopranos, as an exceptional interpreter of Mozart and Strauss and in recordings of opera in concert, and is particularly renowned for her interpretation of Oktavian in *Der Rosenkavalier*. Since the mid-1980s she has commanded the international music festivals—in Salzburg, Aix-en-Provence, and London's Wigmore Hall, among others—and, as a singer of exceptional flexibility, Anne Sofie von Otter is also an accomplished interpreter of early music, in works by Monteverdi, Bach, Handel, Glück, Purcell, Vivaldi and Rameau.

An exclusive Deutsche Grammophon recording artist since 1985, Anne Sofie von Otter has made over 80 recordings and boasts an extensive personal discography: together with Bengt Forsberg, she has made a number of award-winning recital and chamber music discs, and with orchestra she has recorded Weill, Berlioz, Mozart, Berg, Zemlinsky and Mahler. Recent releases include Glück's *Alceste* with John Eliot Gardiner, a selection of Offenbach arias and scenes with Les Musiciens du Louvre, a recital disc of Beethoven, Meyerbeer and Spohr with Melvyn Tan, and the Gramophone Award-winning and Grammy-nominated *Mots d'amour*, a complete disc dedicated to the music of Cécil Chaminade. Her 2001 collaboration, *For the Stars*, with singer, songwriter and producer Elvis Costello, demonstrated the pair's ability to marry the best of pop and classical techniques to create a sophisticated recording that transcends categorization. Her next recording, *Watercolours*, is a volume of Swedish songs to be released in January 2004; and two recent discs of Schubert "Lieder with Orchestra" with bass baritone Thomas Quasthoff, and

Mahler's Symphony No. 3 with Pierre Boulez, have been nominated for this year's Grammy Awards for Best Vocal Performance and Best Classical Album, respectively.

In addition to numerous artistic and recording awards, Anne Sofie von Otter was honored to sing at the special Nobel Concert to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Prize in December 2001: the event brought two of Deutsche Grammophon's biggest stars together in Stockholm—Anne Sofie von Otter and Bryn Terfel—to perform for an illustrious audience of all the living Nobel Prize winners.

### **BENGT FORSBERG**

Swedish pianist Bengt Forsberg has traveled the world for recital tours, solo engagements with orchestras, and as accompanist with Anne Sofie von Otter for over 20 years. He directs the Chamber Music Society in Stockholm, and favors championing lesser-known composers such as Medtner, Alkan and Franz Schmidt, as well as rarely-heard music by such figures as Fauré, Sibelius and Franck. He has made several highly praised recordings for Hyperion with Swedish cellist Mats Lidström, as well as solo recordings of piano music by Schubert, Schumann, and the late Romantic Swedish composers. Together with Anne Sofie von Otter, Bengt Forsberg has made recording of songs as diverse as Struass, Korngold, Stenhammer, Schumann and Weill, as well as an award-winning selection of Grieg.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for mezzo soprano **Anne Sofie von Otter** in recital with pianist **Bengt Forsberg** on **Friday, January 23, 2004** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$32.00, \$42.00** and **\$56.00**. Performance 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](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and 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 Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Friday, January 23, 2004 at 8:00 p.m.**

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

*Recital*

**Anne Sofie von Otter**, mezzo-soprano

**Bengt Forsberg**, piano

**Program:**

Peterson-Berger/"Intet är som väntanstider" from *Fridolins visor*, No. 5; and Serenad Stenhammar/"Jutta kommer till Folkungarna," Op. 37, No. 1

"I Iönnens skymning," Op. 37, No. 2

"Gammal nederländare," Op. 20, No. 3

Poulenc/Solo piano pieces – TBD

Chaminade /"Ronde d'amour"; "Te souviens-tu?"; and "L'amour captive"

Berlioz/"Le coucher du soleil," Op. 2, No. 1; and "Le chant des Bretons," Op. 13, No. 5

Mahler/"Bliche mir nicht in die Lieder"

"Ich ging mit Lust" and "Aus! Aus!" from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*

Korngold/"Liebesbriefchen," Op. 9, No. 4

"Old Spanish," Op. 38, No. 3

"Sterbelied," Op. 14, No. 1

"Versuchung," Op. 18, No. 3

Weill/"Nannas Lied"

"Seeräuber Jenny" from *Die Dreigroschenoper*

"Speak Low" and "Foolish Heart" from *One Touch of Venus*

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