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**CAL PERFORMANCES ANNOUNCES SUSPENSION OF THE
BERKELEY FESTIVAL & EXHIBITION IN 2004**

Revised plans feature Early Music America conference and exhibition, plus San Francisco Early Music Society's "Early Music on the Fringe" concerts, June 9-13, 2004 in Berkeley

BERKELEY, CA – Due to budget constraints and a downturn in contributed funds for special projects, **Cal Performances** announces that it will curtail operation of the **Berkeley Festival & Exhibition** in June 2004. In lieu of a Cal Performances-produced festival, other early music organizations, led by Early Music America and the San Francisco Early Music Society, will convene in Berkeley to produce a conference, exhibition and fringe festival of concerts.

“It is with considerable regret that I must announce that Cal Performances will not be able to produce the Berkeley Festival & Exhibition in 2004 due to insufficient funding for this project,” says **Robert Cole**, Director of Cal Performances and founder of the Berkeley Festival. “I sincerely hope that an improved fiscal environment and new sources of funding in 2006 will allow us to resume the role of producing the Festival. It is a top priority to ensure the future of this unique Bay Area artistic treasure.”

Early Music America (EMA), the national service organization for the field of early music, will hold an early music conference and exhibition **June 10-12, 2004** in Berkeley (locations to be announced). Engaging the theme “**The Future of Early Music in America**,” the conference will feature a variety of professional development sessions and networking forums, in addition to keynote speakers and panels of early music artists and administrators. A vendor’s exhibition, featuring the works of period instrument makers, music publishers and

record labels, will also be included. Details will be announced by EMA at a later date. For more information, contact Early Music America at 1-888-SACKBUT (1-888-722-5288) or www.earlymusic.org.

Concurrent with the Early Music America conference and exhibition, a series of concerts by Bay Area and international performers will take place. As “**Early Music on the Fringe**,” the series will consist of some twenty self-produced performances. Among the ensembles that have expressed interest in performing are American Bach Soloists, Chanticleer, and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. The **San Francisco Early Music Society** (SFEMS) will serve as a clearing house for these programs, providing guidance and support on dates, venues, and publicity. Information on “Early Music on the Fringe” will be available at www.sfems.org/fringe2004.htm.

Since its inauguration in 1990, the biennial **Berkeley Festival & Exhibition** of early music has been recognized internationally as one of the premier events of its kind. Produced seven times by Cal Performances, in cooperation with the Department of Music at UC Berkeley, the San Francisco Early Music Society and Early Music America, the Berkeley Festival & Exhibition has brought together early music performers, scholars, instrument makers, publishers and other professionals from around the world for a week of concerts, lectures, symposia and master classes on and around the UC Berkeley campus. Hundreds of concerts and performances have taken place under the aegis of the Berkeley Festival, including such highlights as the first modern-day performance of Alessandro Scarlatti’s *L’Aldimiro* (1996); the American debut of the Italian baroque ensemble Il Giardino Armonico (1996); the American premiere of choreographer Mark Morris’s reinvention of Jean-Philippe Rameau’s comic opera-ballet *Platée* (1998); the historically reconstructed equestrian pageant *Le Carrousel du Roi* (2000 and 2002); and performances by the Kuijken Brothers, Jordi Savall and Hesperion XX(I), and Christophe Rousset and Les Talens Lyriques, among many others. Over the course of the next few years, Cal Performances will seek new sources of funding in anticipation that the Berkeley Festival & Exhibition will return in spring 2006.