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**THE BRENTANO STRING QUARTET
WITH GUEST VIOLIST HSIN-YUN HUANG
PERFORM QUINTETS BY MOZART
SUNDAY, APRIL 2 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

SIGHTLINES: PRE-CONCERT TALK WITH VIOLINIST MARK STEINBERG, 2:00 – 2:30 P.M.

BERKELEY, March 3, 2006 – Praised for its technical virtuosity, musical insight and stylistic elegance, the **Brentano String Quartet** returns to Cal Performances **Sunday, April 2 at 3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall. Featuring **Mark Steinberg** (violin), **Serena Canin** (violin), **Misha Amory** (viola), and **Nina Maria Lee** (cello), the foursome, accompanied by former member of the esteemed Borromeo String Quartet, **Hsin-Yun Huang** (viola), celebrate the 250th anniversary of **Mozart**'s birth with performances of the composer's String Quintet No. 1 in B-flat major, K. 174; String Quintet No. 4 in G minor, K. 516; and String Quintet No. 5 in D major, K. 593. Although Mozart's landmark string quintets were not the first works written for two violins, two violas and violoncello, they were exceptionally innovative in that they were the first quintets to be consistently patterned on the four-movement plan of the classical string quartet and the first to make extensive use of antiphony and polyphony. "The Brentano String Quartet is something special...their music making is private, delicate, and fresh, but by its very intimacy and importance it seizes attention" (*The New York Times*). A free **Sightlines** pre-concert talk with violinist Mark Steinberg will take place from 2-2:30 p.m.

BRENTANO STRING QUARTET

Named for Antonie Brentano, the person many scholars believe to have been Beethoven's mysterious "Immortal Beloved," and to whom the composer wrote his famous confession, the **Brentano String Quartet** was founded in 1992. During its first few years the ensemble collected numerous major awards, including the first Cleveland Quartet Award, the 1995 Naumburg Chamber Music Award, the 10th Annual Martin E. Segal Award, and, in London, the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award for the most outstanding debut in 1997.

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The Quartet became the first quartet-in-residence at Princeton University in 1999, and served in the same capacity at New York University from 1995 to 2003 and at London's Wigmore Hall for the 2000/01 season.

Highlights of the Brentano String Quartet's performance career include a concert with pianist Mitsuko Uchida at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, appearances at the Sydney Opera House and the ancient amphitheater of Epidauros in Greece, collaborating with soprano Jessye Norman for her 1998 Carnegie Hall recital, and a "Live From Lincoln Center" broadcast. The ensemble has commissioned and premiered works by Milton Babbitt, Chou Wen-chung, Charles Wuorinen, Bruce Adolphe, Steven Mackey, and Jonathan Dawe. To celebrate its tenth anniversary, the Quartet commissioned ten composers to write brief companion pieces to Bach's *Art of Fugue*.

Additionally, the Quartet has collaborated in recent years with Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mark Strand, commissioning poetry for performances of Haydn's *Seven Last Words of Christ*, and in the 2004/05 season premiered a program combining Mr. Strand's poetry with works of Mozart and Webern. Highlights of the Brentano String Quartet's 2004/05 season included appearances in New York (Carnegie's Zankel Hall and Lincoln Center), Dallas, Houston, Berkeley, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Detroit, Madrid, Salzburg, and Amsterdam, among other cities. Recent and upcoming international festival appearances include the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland, Festival de Divonne in France, Bath Festival in England, Kuhmo International Chamber Music Festival in Finland, and various festivals in the United States.

HSIN-YUN HUANG

Hsin-Yun Huang left her native Taiwan at the age of 14 to study at the Yehudi Menuhin School with David Takeno in England. She later earned her B.A. at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia with Michael Tree and her M.A. at the Juilliard School with Samuel Rhodes.

In 1988, Huang was the youngest-ever gold medalist of the Lionel Tertis International Competition on the Isle of Man. In 1993, she won top prizes in the ARD International Music

Competition in Munich and the highly prestigious Bunkamura Orchard Hall Award, which firmly established her as one her generation's leading violists.

As a member of the venerated Borromeo String Quartet from 1994-2000, Huang participated in festivals worldwide, in prominent venues such as New York's Alice Tully Hall, London's Wigmore Hall, Berlin's Philharmonie, and Japan's Casals Hall. Huang is now an active soloist and chamber musician worldwide. She has participated in prominent chamber music festivals including the Rome Chamber Music Festival, Spoleto Festival; Chamber Music Northwest, the Marlboro Music Festival; the Vancouver Chamber Music Festival, Festival de Divonne in France, the Newport Festival, and many others. In constant demand in her native Taiwan, she performs annually with the National Symphony of Taiwan and also appeared recently in a nationally televised solo recital for President Chen Shui-Bian. Other notable concerts include appearances with the Bavarian Radio Orchestra in Munich, the Zagreb Soloists in Paris, the Tokyo Philharmonic in Tokyo, the Berlin Radio Symphony, and the Russian State Philharmonic, among others.

More recent highlights include a collaborative tour with the Orion String Quartet and the Bill T. Jones Dance Company (under the auspices of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center); a performance of Hindemith's complete works for viola, and a European tour with the Brentano String Quartet. In addition, she has collaborated with artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Jaime Laredo, Joshua Bell, Joseph Suk, Menahem Pressler, Joseph Silverstein, Gary Hoffman, and Michael Tree.

Currently a New York resident, Huang is a dedicated faculty member of the Juilliard School and the Mannes College of Music in New York.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Brentano String Quartet** on **Sunday, April 2 at 3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall 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 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.

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Cal Performances' 2005/2006 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, April 2 at 2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

SIGHTLINES

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at College, Berkeley

Pre-concert talk by violinist **Mark Steinberg**. *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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Sunday, April 2 at 3:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at College, Berkeley

Chamber Music

Brentano String Quartet

featuring **Hsin-Yun Huang**, viola

Program:

Mozart/String Quintet No. 1 in B-flat major, K. 174; String Quintet No. 4 in G minor, K. 516; and String Quintet No. 5 in D major, K. 593.

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