

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

CONTACT:
Lisle Peterson (510) 643-6714
lisle@calperfs.berkeley.edu
Christina Kellogg (510) 642-9121
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS RENOWNED MEZZO-SOPRANO
CECILIA BARTOLI
IN RECITAL WITH PIANIST SERGIO CIOMEI FEBRUARY 15, 2004**

BERKELEY, January 12, 2004 – Italian mezzo-soprano **Cecilia Bartoli**, who made her West Coast debut at Cal Performances in 1991, returns to Zellerbach Hall to perform in one of only three United States recital engagements **Sunday, February 15 at 3:00 p.m.** Bartoli's last appearance in the Bay Area was February 2001's sold-out performance at Zellerbach Hall with the early music ensemble Il Giardino Armonico in a program of music by Antonio Vivaldi. The *San Francisco Chronicle* called that appearance "a genuine triumph, the result of lustrous vocalism, fascinating programming...and an ebullient rapport with the audience...rarely has Bartoli's voice sounded so expansive and full of color, or her phrasing so fluid and eloquent." Recently honored at the 2003 Classical Brit Awards for her outstanding contribution to music, the revered mezzo-soprano is enjoying a host of international honors due to her back-to-back Grammy-winning recordings of newly-discovered operatic works by Vivaldi and Gluck, and has also enjoyed critical acclaim for her recent recording of material by Antonio Salieri. Pianist **Sergio Ciomei** joins Bartoli for the February 15 recital.

CECILIA BARTOLI

Although she had performed at Milan's La Scala opera house and on French and Italian television, attracting immediate attention from some of the world's great conductors and musicians, Bartoli was not well known in the United States when she performed her first West Coast concert in February 1991 in Hertz Hall for Cal Performances. At the intermission of her first concert here, Cal Performances Director Robert Cole engaged her to return the following season. As her career blossomed, Bartoli has maintained a close relationship with Berkeley and has made subsequent recital appearances in February 1992, January 1993, March 1994, a concert

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in Zellerbach Hall with San Francisco Opera orchestra members in February 1995, and most recently the 2001 appearance with Il Giardino Armonico.

Cecilia Bartoli was born in Rome to musical parents (both were professional singers), where she attended the Conservatorio di Santa Cecilia. Her obvious vocal talents drew the attention of conductors Herbert von Karajan and Daniel Barenboim after an early appearance on French television. Fame swiftly followed. She is best known for her roles in numerous Mozart and Rossini operas, including appearances at La Scala, Salzburg and Zurich in *Don Giovanni* (as Zerlina and Donna Elvira); in Florence, Vienna and New York in *Così fan Tutte* (as Dorabella and Despina); in New York and Zurich in *Nozze di Figaro* (as Cherubino and Susanna); and in the Met's first staging of *La Cenerentola*. October 2001 saw the mezzo-soprano's long-awaited debut at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in Haydn's *L'Anima del Filosofo*. In 2001/02 she performed in Toulouse, Paris, Baden-Baden, Amsterdam, Munich and Bremen with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Le Musiche Nov. In March 2002 Bartoli performed a revival of Paisello's *Nina* and a new production of Rossini's *Il Turco in Italia* at the Zurich Opera House.

Bartoli has recorded more than 10 complete operas, most recently Haydn's *Armida* and Handel's *Renaldo*, in addition to numerous solo albums, including three CDs of Rossini arias and songs; two Mozart aria CDs; an album of French songs; and a CD of Mozart, Rossini and Donizetti duets with bass-baritone Bryn Terfel. Bartoli's 1999 *Vivaldi Album* has sold an impressive 500,000-plus copies worldwide, a considerable accomplishment for a recording of unknown classical repertoire. *Dreams and Fables: Gluck Italian Arias* (2001), a survey of the little-known early Italian arias of Christoph Willibald von Gluck, was another bestseller and Grammy Award-winner. *The Art of Cecilia Bartoli*, released on Decca last fall, demonstrates the multiple facets of her superb vocal instrument, and features duets with Bryn Terfel, David Daniels and Luciano Pavarotti.

The Salieri Album (on the Decca label) was released in September 2003. "The aim of the recording, which is based totally on Salieri's own manuscripts, is to give full recognition to a composer whose vast creativity led to the most vivid portrayal of human emotion in music,"

Bartoli wrote of the project. Accompanied by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and conductor Adam Fischer, Bartoli celebrates Salieri's enormous emotional range from delicate melodies reminiscent of Mozart to explosively expressive compositions, all performed with Bartoli's unrivalled technical brilliance and commitment.

In addition to winning Grammys for the Vivaldi and Gluck recordings, Bartoli is also the recipient of two Grammy Awards for Best Classical Vocal Album—for her *Italian Songs* CD with Andrés Schiff and *An Italian Songbook* with James Levine. She has been honored with multiple awards including the Deutsche Schallplatten Preis, La Stella d'Oro, the Diapason d'Or and the Chevalier of Arts and Letters from the French government.

SERGIO CIOMEI

Born in Genoa in 1965, **Sergio Ciomei** studied piano with Franco Trabucco. In 1991 he gained international recognition when he won second prize in the Mozart Competition of the Salzburg Mozarteum, and from 1989 to 1994 he held the position of assistant maestro to Frans Brüggen and Kees Boeke at the Italian Baroque Music Courses of the Accademia Chigiana, Siena. As a soloist of both piano and harpsichord, and as a member of the ensembles Europa Galante and Tripla Concordia, Ciomei has a busy international performance schedule, appearing in concerts conducted by Frans Brüggen, Fabio Bondi, David del Pino Klinge and Jean-Jaques Kantorow. In 2001 the pianist began collaborating with Cecilia Bartoli, and the two have appeared in such venues as the Théâtre de Champs Élysées and the International Festival of Bad Kissingen.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for mezzo-soprano **Cecilia Bartoli** on **Sunday, February 15, 2004 at 3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$50.00, \$75.00, \$150.00 and \$250.00**. 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; 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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Wells Fargo is the corporate sponsor of Cal Performances' presentation of Cecilia Bartoli.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, February 15 at 3:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

Special Event

Cecilia Bartoli, mezzo-soprano

Sergio Ciomei, piano

Program: Since making her 1991 West Coast recital debut at Cal Performances in Hertz Hall, Cecilia Bartoli has gone on to become one of the very brightest stars in the opera firmament. The Grammy Award-winning mezzo-soprano returns for her seventh appearance at Cal Performances.

Tickets: \$50.00, \$75.00, \$150.00 and \$250.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; online at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.