

FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE

**CONTACT:**

Lisle Peterson (510) 643-6714  
lisle@calperfs.berkeley.edu  
Stefanie Scott (510) 642-9121  
sscott@calperfs.berkeley.edu

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**  
**CHRISTOPHER O'RILEY'S RADIOHEAD**  
**IN ZELLERBACH HALL SEPTEMBER 17, 2003 AT 8:00 P.M.**

**INNOVATIVE PIANIST CHRISTOPHER O'RILEY PERFORMS SONGS BY BRITISH ROCK GROUP  
RADIOHEAD, TRANSCRIBED BY O'RILEY FOR SOLO PIANO**

**BERKELEY, July 8, 2003** – Cal Performances announces the addition of acclaimed pianist **Christopher O'Riley** to its 2003/04 season line-up. In a program entitled *Christopher O'Riley's Radiohead*, the evening features O'Riley's transcriptions of material by famed alt-rock band Radiohead **Wednesday, September 17, 2003 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. O'Riley, whose work in the classical realm over the past two decades has made him one of the most important and versatile American pianists before the public today, admits that the music of Radiohead has been "the music in my head" ever since he discovered the band's Grammy Award-winning album *OK Computer* in 1997. His passion for the group's lush guitar-driven sound and complex songcraft led him to create piano versions of his favorite songs, captured on the new Sony Classical recording *True Love Waits: Christopher O'Riley Plays Radiohead*. An early four-star review of *True Love Waits* in *Rolling Stone* magazine calls the compositions "melodically vivid" and performed "with unblinking virtuosity." O'Riley takes the program on tour for the first time this year; Cal Performances' presentation September 17 is the only Bay Area engagement. Subscribers receive priority ordering for this event through August 1; and single tickets for *Christopher O'Riley's Radiohead*, and all of Cal Performances 2003/04 events, go on sale Saturday, August 2 at 1:00 p.m.

***CHRISTOPHER O'RILEY'S RADIOHEAD***

Ever the adventurer, **Christopher O'Riley** has proven uninhibited in programming his recitals and concerts, and his enthusiasm for the alternative rock band **Radiohead**—a group formed by five friends in 1987 in Oxford, England—is typical of his wide-ranging interests. In the pop music world

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Radiohead has risen to the level of cult status, and its popularity extends to music enthusiasts of all stripes. In a *New Yorker* magazine profile, Alex Ross wrote that the band's "interplay was as engaging to the mind as anything that's been done in classical music recently. But you could jump up and down to it." Because the band's music is not published, O'Riley's only recourse in performing the songs was to create his own transcriptions. The pianist listened to everything he could lay his hands on, including b-sides and rare live tracks, and became "obsessed" with Radiohead's complex (and most often electronic) sonic textures: "The band has the opportunity to have three guitar players at the same time, so it's really a contrapuntal, orchestral sound," O'Riley said in an interview on National Public Radio's *Performance Today*. "There are so many layers; this is what really appeals to me, and what gives me so much to cull from as far as what to use on the piano." He began playing the Radiohead songs as concert recital encores, as station-break filler for Public Radio International's *From the Top*, the weekly show he hosts for young musicians (the 5<sup>th</sup> highest rated public radio show in the U.S.), and in May 2002 performed them on *Performance Today*. "That's what got the message out," the pianist says. "My performances lived on the [radio] show's web site, and all the Radiohead fan sites linked them. By then it had become clear that this was a record."

The album *True Love Waits* features 15 songs written by Radiohead's five members: Thom Yorke, Jonathan Greenwood, Colin Greenwood, Philip Selway, and Edward O'Brien. Selections were drawn from five of the band's studio albums: *Pablo Honey*, *The Bends*, *OK Computer*, *Kid A*, and *Amnesiac*. Songs include the title track, *Everything in its Right Place*, *Knives Out*, *Black Star*, *Karma Police*, *Let Down*, *Airbag*, *Subterranean Homesick Alien*, *Thinking About You*, *Exit Music (For a Film)*, *You*, *Bulletproof*, *Fake Plastic Trees*, *I Can't*, and *Motion Picture Soundtrack*.

## CHRISTOPHER O'RILEY

**Christopher O'Riley** enjoys a thriving concert career that includes solo recitals, chamber music and orchestral performances of the standard piano literature, as well as other keyboard works reaching from the English Renaissance to the modern tango. He has won top prizes at the Van Cliburn, Leeds, Busoni and Montreal piano competitions, and is the recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant and the Andrew Wolf Memorial Chamber Music Prize. O'Riley's performance schedule regularly

takes him to major cities throughout the United States and his talents have been spotlighted by frequent engagements at both Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center. Internationally, he has appeared in cultural capitals worldwide, from London, Paris and Vienna to Hong Kong and Melbourne, Australia.

Christopher O'Riley's recordings also reflect the originality and diversity of his repertoire. Among his highly acclaimed solo releases are a Scriabin disc for Image Recordings and an all-Stravinsky recording on Nonesuch, featuring *Three Movements from Petrouchka* and O'Riley's own transcriptions of *Apollo* and *Histoire du Soldat*. He is also heard on the RCA Victor Red Seal release of French repertoire for piano and flute with James Galway. His discography is further highlighted by a Busoni album (including the rarely-heard *Fantasia Contrappuntistica*), a disc of Ravel's solo works, a recording of Beethoven Piano Sonatas, a collaboration with cellist Carter Brey entitled *Le Grand Tango* and a recording of *The Short-Tempered Clavier* by P.D.Q. Bach.

#### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for *Christopher O'Riley's Radiohead* on **Wednesday, September 17 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$18.00, \$24.00, and \$28.00**. Cal Performances donors of \$250.00 and above have the first opportunity to purchase tickets now through July 15. 2003/04 season subscribers have the opportunity to purchase tickets July 16<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, before they go on sale to the general public on August 2<sup>d</sup>. 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, staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount. 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](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

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*The San Francisco Chronicle* and *San Francisco* magazine are season sponsors of Cal Performances' 2003/04 performing arts season.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Wednesday, September 17 at 8:00 p.m.**

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

*Furthermore*

*Christopher O'Riley's Radiohead*

**Christopher O'Riley**, piano

**Program:**

Pianist Christopher O'Riley brings his transcriptions of music by famed alt-rock band Radiohead to Zellerbach Hall in a program featuring music from O'Riley's Sony Classical release, *True Love Waits*. The September 17 program includes the album's title track, *Everything in its Right Place*, *Knives Out*, *Black Star*, *Karma Police*, *Let Down*, *Airbag*, *Subterranean Homesick Alien*, *Thinking About You*, *Exit Music (For a Film)*, *You*, *Bulletproof*, *Fake Plastic Trees*, *I Can't*, and *Motion Picture Soundtrack*.

**Tickets: \$18.00, \$24.00 and \$28.00**, available to Cal Performances donors of \$250.00 and above through July 15; after July 15, tickets will be offered to 2003/04 season subscribers through July 25. Single tickets go on sale to the general public on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tickets may be purchased through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; online at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door.