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**SOPRANO DANIELLE DE NIESE MAKES HER CAL PERFORMANCES
DEBUT ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2009, AT 3:00 P.M. AT HERTZ HALL**

BERKELEY, December 20, 2008— **Danielle de Niese**, who drew praise at her 2005 Glyndebourne Festival debut singing Cleopatra in Handel's *Giulio Cesare*, continues an impressive ascent in the music world. She boldly opens her Cal Performances' debut on **Sunday February 8 at 3:00** at Hertz Hall with the demanding "Endless Pleasure" and "Myself I Shall Adore" from **G. F. Handel's *Semele*** followed by arias and songs by **Edvard Grieg, Hugo Wolf, Francis Poulenc, Samuel Barber** and **Georges Bizet**. She will be accompanied by pianist **Ken Noda**.

Danielle de Niese's career got off to a prodigious start, with early operatic debuts at the Netherlands Opera, the Saito Kinen Festival and the Paris Opera. But it was her Glyndebourne Festival performance that brought true international acclaim. "So perfectly did her relentlessly pert but charismatic Cleopatra, more Valerie Leon than Elizabeth Taylor, fit the production. Her last solo aria was a showstopper" (*The Guardian*, London).

In 2009, de Niese will make her house and role debut at Royal Opera House, Covent Garden as Galatea in *Acis and Galatea* as well as her Austrian debut at the Theater an der Wien as Ginevra in *Ariodante*. She returns to the Metropolitan Opera in January in the acclaimed Mark Morris production of *Orfeo ed Euridice* opposite Stephanie Blythe, and then in June she revisits Glyndebourne as Cleopatra in *Giulio Cesare* with conductor Emmanuelle Haïm and opposite Sarah Connolly as Giulio Cesare. In February, de Niese begins a coast-to-coast recital tour that includes appearances at Cal Performances and Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall.

Australian-born to parents of Sri Lankan and Dutch heritage, Danielle de Niese grew up in Los Angeles. Trained in dance and piano as well as music at the respected Colburn School in Los Angeles, she participated in the Tanglewood, Aspen and Marlboro summer programs before

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coming to New York in 1997. While still a freshman at the Mannes School of Music, she became, at age 18, the youngest artist ever to enter the Metropolitan Opera studio.

In February 2007, de Niese entered into an exclusive recording contract for Decca Records. Her first disc was *Handel Arias*, with William Christie (who conducted the Glyndebourne *Giulio Cesare*) and Les Arts Florissants.

Ken Noda is Musical Assistant to James Levine at the Metropolitan Opera. Prior to joining the Met he studied with Daniel Barenboim and had a full career as a concert pianist. He performed as a soloist with such orchestras as the Berlin, Vienna, New York, Israel, and Los Angeles Philharmonics; the London, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Montreal, and National Symphonies; the Cleveland Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, and Philharmonia Orchestra of London, under such conductors as Abbado, Barenboim, Chailly, Kubelik, Levine, Mehta, Ozawa, and Previn. He has also collaborated as a chamber musician with Maestro Levine (at two pianos), Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Nigel Kennedy, and the Emerson Quartet; and as an accompanist to Kathleen Battle, Hildegard Behrens, Maria Ewing, Aprile Mollo, Kurt Moll, Jessye Norman, Dawn Upshaw, and Deborah Voigt.

Since 1999, he has been a participant every summer at the Marlboro Music Festival and also teaches at the Renata Scotto Opera Academy at the invitation of Miss Scotto. At the Met, he devotes much of his time to the training of young singers in the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and also gives masterclasses at Juilliard, Yale and at the Ravinia Festival/Steans Institute.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Danielle de Niese**, soprano, in recital on **Sunday, February 8, 2009** at **3:00 p.m.** at **Hertz Hall** are priced at \$46.00. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information,

call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.org.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, February 8 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Recital

Danielle de Niese, soprano

Ken Noda, piano

Program:

Handel/ *Semele* (HWV 58): “Endless Pleasure;” “Myself I Shall Adore”

Grieg/ *Haugtussa*, Op. 67: No. 1, “Det Syng”; No. 3, “Blåbaer-Li”; No. 5, “Elsk”; No. 7, “Vond Dag”; No. 8, “Ved Gjøtlet-Bekken”

Wolf/ *Mörike-Lieder*: No. 12, “Verborgenheit”; *Italienisches Liederbuch*: No. 4, “Gesegnet sei, durch den die Welt entstand”; No. 11, “Wie lange schon war immer mein Verlangen”; No. 46, “Ich hab’ in Penna einen Liebsten wohnen”; *Weltliche Lieder*: No. 2, “In dem Schatten meiner Locken”

Poulenc/ *Fiançailles pour rire*, FP 101: No. 3, “Il vole”; No. 5, “Violon”, No. 6, “Fleurs”

Barber/ *Despite and Still*, Op. 41, No. 4, “Solitary Hotel”; Three Songs, Op. 10, No. 2, “Sleep now”; *Nuvoletta*, Op. 25

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Bizet/ “Chanson D'Avril”; “La coccinelle”; “Tarantelle”

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