

FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE

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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS VIOLA DA GAMBA VIRTUOSO**  
**JORDI SAVALL**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 AT 8:00 P.M. IN FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**AND**  
**HESPÈRION XXI WITH SOPRANO MONTSERRAT FIGUERAS**  
**FRIDAY, MAY 14 AT 8:00 P.M. IN FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**BERKELEY, April 12, 2004** – **Jordi Savall**, unanimously recognized as one of the leading interpreters of early music, returns to Cal Performances giving a rare viola da gamba solo recital on **Wednesday, May 12 at 8:00 p.m.** and leading his ensemble **Hespèrion XXI** on **Friday, May 14 at 8:00 p.m.**, both concerts in Berkeley's First Congregational Church. Known for its dynamic performances and bold interpretations of an all-encompassing range of ancient musical literature, **Savall** directs the Barcelona-based Hespèrion XXI in a program of *folias* and *romances* from the Iberian peninsula and elsewhere. On May 14, the ensemble explores the wonderfully improvisatory and virtuosic world of 12<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>-century music by **Diego Ortiz, Antonio Valente, Tarquinio Merula, Antonio Martin y Coll** and **Marin Marias**, and new songs set to Spanish poetry by ensemble member **Arianna Savall**. Celebrated soprano **Montserrat Figueras** joins Hespèrion XXI for this performance. Savall, widely credited with the rebirth of the viola da gamba repertoire, performs work by **J. S. Bach, Johannes Schenck, Sieur De Machy, Jean de Sainte-Colombe** and **Tobias Hume** in his May 12 recital. "All music is contemporary if it is played by contemporary musicians," Savall explains. "Archeology is just the starting point—to play a melody, you have to create around it a world of music."

**JORDI SAVALL**

Born in Barcelona in 1941, **Jordi Savall** began his musical training as a cellist at the age of six, studying at the Conservatori Superior de Música de Barcelona until 1965. After determining that his interest in early music could not be well served by the modern cello, he discovered the viola da

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gamba. In 1968 he completed his training in the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis (Switzerland) where he later succeeded his music master, August Wenzinger, in the position of Professor of Viol and Ensemble.

Recognized as one of the most important performers of early music today, Jordi Savall is a multi-faceted musical personality: viol player, conductor and practitioner of an unmistakable style. His concert, pedagogical, and research activities place him among the main investigators of historical music practice—his efforts uncovering works of previously unknown composers such as Coperario, Cererols, Ferrabosco, Ortiz, and Guerrero among others. In 1974, Savall and soprano Montserrat Figueras founded Hespèrion XX (re-named Hespèrion XXI at the turn of the millennium). In the late 1980s, Savall founded La Capella Reial de Catalunya and Le Concert des Nations, vocal and instrumental ensembles dedicated to Hispanic and French music of the Baroque period.

Increasingly active as a conductor, Jordi Savall has directed original instrument performances of J. S. Bach's *B-Minor Mass*, *Christmas Oratorio*, and *Art of the Fugue*; Monteverdi's *Vespro alla Vergine*; and the *Missa de Batalla* and *Missa de Requiem* of Cererols. He has more than 80 recordings to his credit, including several acclaimed series of French, English, Spanish, Italian and German music on various major and independent labels. The Alia Vox label was created by Savall in 1998 to record the work of his ensembles.

### **MONTSERRAT FIGUERAS**

**Montserrat Figueras** was born in Barcelona to a family of music lovers. She began vocal training at an early age with Jordi Albareda. In 1968, she left Barcelona for Basel to continue her studies in the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis and at the Musik Akademie where she trained with Kurt Widmer, Thomas Binkley, Andrea von Rahm and later with Eva Krasznai.

“Montserrat Figueras possesses one of the most extraordinary voices in music today,” lauds the *Boston Phoenix*. The study of original vocal techniques dating from the age of the Troubadours to the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the knowledge of traditional Catalan, Iberian and Mediterranean singing, and the performance of Spanish religious polyphony are the soprano's specialties. The alchemy between these three elements leads to a very personal interpretation of this music, far from the influence of

post-romantic models. Figueras covers a broad range of music, beginning with Spanish scores from the Middle Ages up until the 18<sup>th</sup> century and continuing with Italian and French repertoires. Figueras has made important contributions to medieval and Renaissance music with her recordings of works by Luis Mila, Tarquinio Merula and Alonso Mudarra. In 2003 she released *Ninna Nanna*, a collection of lullabies covering no less than five centuries. Accompanied by Hespèrion XXI, “Figueras sings them beautifully in a dark, rich, haunting soprano,” writes James Oestreich in *The New York Times*. “It may not be too soon to add the word ‘triumphant.’”

### HESPÈRION XXI

United in a common aim—the study and the interpretation of ancient music based on new and up-to-date premises—and fascinated by the immense richness of the Hispanic and European musical repertoire before 1800, Jordi Savall (bow instruments), Montserrat Figueras (soprano), Lorenzo Alpert (wind and percussion) and Hopkinson Smith (plucked instruments) founded Hespèrion XX in 1974 (the ensemble was known as Hespèrion XX until the birth of the 21st century).

The spirit characterized by Hespèrion up to the present day has been the eclectic way in which they have made their artistic choices. This has allowed the group to interpret a number of important Spanish medieval pieces as well as English Renaissance, Baroque and consort music pieces. Such an extensive repertoire requires a profound knowledge of different styles and periods by the performers with each musician excelling in his or her instrument, their interpretation depending on the repertoire being played on each occasion. In addition to Savall and Figueras, the musicians on the May 14 performance include **Ferran Savall** (voice, guitar and tiorba), **Arianna Savall** (voice and arpa doppia), and **Pedro Estevan** (percussion).

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Jordi Savall** viola da gamba recital on **Wednesday, May 12 at 8:00 p.m.** are priced at **\$42.00**; and tickets for **Hespèrion XXI** led by **Jordi Savall** on **Friday, May 14 at 8:00 p.m.** are priced at **\$42.00**. Both performances are in First Congregational Church. Call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability. Half-price tickets may be available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, and other students receive a

\$2 discount. For more information, call Cal Performances 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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**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Wednesday, May 12 at 8:00 p.m.**

**First Congregational Church**  
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

*Recital - Music Before 1850*

**Jordi Savall**, viola da gamba

**Program:**

K.F. Abel/Prelude

J. S. Bach/Allemande and Bourrée

Johannes Schenck/"Aria Burlesca"

Sieur De Machy/Prelude in D minor

Jean de Sainte-Colombe/"Fantaisie en Rondeau", "Les Pleurs," "Prelude in A minor", and "Fantasy in E minor"

Marin Marais/ *Les Voix Humaines* - Muzettes

Tobias Hume/*Musicall Humors*: "A Souldier's March", "Captaine Hume's Pavin & Galliard", "Harke, harke - Wooke doe me no harm", and "A Souldier's Resolution"

Alfonso Ferrabosco/"Coranto"

Thomas Ford/"Why not here?"

John Playford/"La Cloche"

Anon/*The Bag-Pipes Tuning*: "A Pointe or Preludium", "The Lancashire Pipes", "The Piggies of Rumsey", and "Kate of Bardie - A Toy"

**Tickets:** \$42.00 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.

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**Friday, May 14 at 8:00 p.m.**

**First Congregational Church**  
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

*Music Before 1850*

**Hespèrion XXI**

**Jordi Savall**, director and viola da gamba

**Montserrat Figueras**, soprano

**Arianna Savall**, voice & arpa doppia

**Ferran Savall**, voice, guitar & tiorba

**Pedro Estevan**, percussion

**Program:**

Diego Ortiz/"La Spagna"

Arianna Savall/"Yo soy de mi amado Cantar de los Cantares", "L' Amor", and "Canarios"

Santiago de Murcia/"Jota"

Antonio Valente/"Gallarda napolitana" (improvisation)

Tarquino Merula/"Aria sopra la ciaccon" (improvisation)

Marin Marais/*Les Voix Humaines* - Muzettes

Ferran Savall/"La Cançó del Lladre" (improvisation)

Antonio Martin y Coll/ "Diferencias sobre las Folias"

Tarquino Merula/"El Testament d'Amelia"

Anon/"Lamento de Tristano", "Ay trista vida corporal (Lament de la Verge)", "Paxarico tu te llamas",  
and "La dama y el pastor"

**Tickets:** \$42.00 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.