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**VIOLINIST EXTRAORDINAIRE HILARY HAHN RETURNS TO CAL
PERFORMANCES WITH PIANIST NATALIE ZHU, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29**

BERKELEY, September 23, 2005 – One of the most accomplished and compelling young musicians on the international circuit, **Hilary Hahn** returns to Zellerbach Hall **Saturday, October 29 at 8:00 p.m.** Turning 25 this year, the Grammy Award-winning violinist is known for her impeccable technique, artistic intelligence and refreshing approach to performance, and has been considered a virtuoso among the phalanx of young violinists since being named America's Best Young Classical Musician by *Time* magazine in 2001. Hahn appears regularly with the world's great orchestras in Europe, Asia, and North America, and has established herself as an astonishingly gifted artist in concert or in the recording studio. Her Cal Performances' program features **Ysaÿe's** Sonata for violin solo No. 1 in G minor, Op. 27, No. 1; **Enescu's** Sonata for violin & piano No. 3 in A minor ("dans le caractère populaire roumain"), Op. 25; **Milstein's** Paganiniana for Violin; **Mozart's** Sonata for violin & piano in G major, K. 301; and **Beethoven's** Sonata for violin & piano No. 3 in E flat major, Op. 12, No. 3. She performs with long-time collaborator, pianist **Natalie Zhu**.

HILARY HAHN

Hilary Hahn was born in Lexington, Virginia. At the age of three she moved to Baltimore, where she began playing the violin one month before her fourth birthday in a local children's program. Admitted to Philadelphia's prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in 1990 at the age of ten, she studied with the legendary Jascha Brodsky—the last surviving student of the great Belgian violinist Eugene Ysaÿe—working closely with him until his death at the age of 89. Though she completed the Curtis Institute's requirements at age 16, Hahn deferred graduation and remained at the school for several more years, coaching regularly with Jaime Laredo, and studying chamber music with Felix Galimir and Gary Graffman until she was 19.

Hahn made her major orchestra debut at age 11 with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Her 1993 Philadelphia Orchestra debut was followed by engagements with the Cleveland

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Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. In March 1995, at age 15, Hahn had the honor of making her German debut playing the Beethoven concerto with Lorin Maazel and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, in a concert broadcast throughout Europe on radio and television. Two months later she received the Avery Fisher Career Grant. In 1996, she signed an exclusive recording contract with Sony Classical, and made her Carnegie Hall debut in New York, as a soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Hahn has made five recordings for Sony Classical, which include her first album that won the Diapason's "d'Or of the Year" in 1997; her next recording, concertos by Beethoven and Bernstein, which brought her first Grammy nomination, as well as a second Diapason d'Or; and her third release—American concertos by Samuel Barber and Edgar Meyer—which won the Deutsche Schallplattenpreis and the Cannes Classical Award. Her 2001 recording of the concertos of Brahms and Stravinsky won her a Grammy Award, among other awards, and became Hahn's fourth consecutive classical bestseller. In 2002, Sony released her fifth album—concertos by Felix Mendelssohn and Dmitri Shostakovich. Hahn subsequently signed an exclusive agreement with Deutsche Grammophone. Two CDs released so far: a 2003 recording of four Bach violin concertos with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and Jeffrey Kahane; and a 2004 disc that features the Elgar Violin Concerto and Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*, with the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Colin Davis. Hahn's new album of Mozart Sonatas performed with pianist Natalie Zhu will be released in the United States October 11, 2005.

NATALIE ZHU

The recipient of both the 2003 Avery Fisher Career Grant and the Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award, **Natalie Zhu** is an active chamber musician, a frequent soloist at the Amelia Island Festival and has appeared at both the Great Lakes Music and Marlboro Music festivals. In 2000 she was a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Festival. Zhu has performed throughout North America, Europe, and China as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. She has performed in

the United States with the Pacific Symphony, the Concerto Soloists Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Astral Chamber Orchestra, the Bergen Philharmonic, and with the Colorado Philharmonic National Repertory Orchestra. She has also appeared in New York's Steinway Hall, and is featured this season with Astral violinist Christina Castelli and Astral cellist Clancy Newman at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, in addition to her collaboration with Hahn.

Zhu began her piano studies with Xiao-Cheng Liu at the age of six in her native China and made her first public appearance at age nine in Beijing. At eleven she emigrated with her family to Los Angeles, and by 15 was enrolled at the Curtis Institute of Music where she received the prestigious Rachmaninoff Award and studied with Gary Graffman. In 2001 she joined the Curtis faculty as staff pianist. Natalie Zhu received a Master of Music degree from the Yale School of Music where she studied with Claude Frank.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for violinist **Hilary Hahn** in recital with pianist **Natalie Zhu** on **Saturday, October 29, 2005** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$34.00, \$46.00** and **\$58.00**. 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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Cal Performances' 2005/2006 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, October 29 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Recital

Hilary Hahn, violin

Natalie Zhu, piano

Program:

Ysaÿe/Sonata for violin solo No. 1 in G minor, Op. 27, No. 1

Enescu/Sonata for violin & piano No. 3 in A minor ("dans le caractère populaire roumain"), Op. 25

Milstein/Paganiniana for Violin

Mozart/Sonata for violin & piano in G major, K. 301

Beethoveen/Sonata for violin & piano No. 3 in E flat major, Op. 12, No. 3.

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