

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

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**VIOLIN VIRTUOSO ITZHAK PERLMAN RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES
WITH PIANIST JANET GUGGENHEIM SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 AT 3:00 P.M. IN
ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, November 25, 2003 – Itzhak Perlman, “the undisputed godfather of virtuosos everywhere” (*Washington Post*), returns to Cal Performances with pianist **Janet Guggenheim, Sunday, January 18 at 3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Known throughout the world for his charismatic personality as well as for his phenomenal talent, Perlman enjoys a rare status among classical musicians: audiences respond not only to his astonishing abilities, but also to the deeply personal joy of making music that he communicates with every stroke of his bow.

Born in Israel in 1945, **Itzhak Perlman** began his musical training at the Academy of Music in Tel Aviv. At age 13 he moved to New York and was soon propelled into the international arena with an appearance on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. Perlman went on to study with Ivan Galamian and Dorothy DeLay at The Juilliard School and, just five years after his arrival in the United States, he made his Carnegie Hall debut. The following year, he won the prestigious Leventritt Competition, which launched a worldwide career.

Since then, Perlman has appeared with every major orchestra and has performed throughout the world. A frequent collaborator with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, he joined the ensemble for its first Eastern bloc concerts in Warsaw and Budapest, the Soviet Union, China, and India. He visited the Soviet Union a second time in 1990, performing with Yo-Yo Ma, Jessye Norman, and the Leningrad Philharmonic under the direction of Yuri Temirkanov, in a gala event celebrating the 150th anniversary of Tchaikovsky’s birth.

In recent seasons Perlman has also appeared frequently on the conductor’s podium, for orchestras in Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, San Francisco, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Pittsburgh, Seattle, and Toronto, as well as the National Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the at

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the Ravinia and OK Mozart festivals. In January 2000 he was named Principal Guest Conductor of the Detroit Symphony. In July 2002 Perlman was appointed Music Advisor of the St. Louis Symphony through the 2003/04 season. This season he will conduct the New York Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony, London Philharmonic, and Concertgebouw Orchestra. He recently made recordings conducting the Israel Philharmonic for Deutsche Grammophon, and the Berlin Philharmonic for EMI.

As a soloist, Itzhak Perlman continues to delight audiences in major centers throughout the world. During the 2001/02 season, he appeared as soloist and conductor with the Utah Symphony at the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. He also participated in the gala opening of Philadelphia's Verizon Hall, with Emanuel Ax and Yo-Yo Ma performing Beethoven's Triple Concerto. He closed out the season with a tour of Asia that brought him to audiences in Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, and Taipei. Perlman returned to Asia in September 2003 for a 10-day recital tour of Japan. A highlight of his U.S. recitals this year is the world premiere of a new work by Ellen Taaffe Zwilich commissioned by Ruth Eckerd Hall.

A major presence in the performing arts on television, Itzhak Perlman has been honored with four Emmy Awards, most recently for the PBS documentary *Fiddling for the Future*, a film about the Perlman Summer Music Program and his work as a teacher and conductor in that program. He received his third Emmy for the PBS special *In the Fiddler's House*, which was filmed in Poland and features him performing with four of the world's finest Klezmer bands. Following the program's release on home audio and video, Perlman has made several North American tours of *In the Fiddler's House*, and released a second CD, *Live in the Fiddler's House*, recorded at Radio City Music Hall. In 1992, the PBS documentary *Perlman in Russia* captured an Emmy Award for best music documentary. Perlman has also appeared on a host of other television programs, including *The Tonight Show*, *Sesame Street*, and Academy and Grammy Award telecasts.

Itzhak Perlman's numerous recordings have garnered 15 Grammy Awards, most recently for *The American Album* with Seiji Ozawa and the Boston Symphony. Current releases include the Grammy-nominated live recording with pianist Martha Argerich and two *Cinema Serenade* albums with John Williams conducting the Pittsburgh Symphony and Boston Pops in popular

hits from the movies. Throughout 1995 EMI honored Perlman as Artist of the Year with the release of the 21-disc set, *The Itzhak Perlman Collection*. One of Perlman's proudest achievements was his collaboration on the film score of the Academy Award-winning *Schindler's List*, in which he performed the violin solos.

Numerous publications and institutions have paid tribute to Itzhak Perlman for the unique place he occupies in the artistic and humanitarian fabric of our times. *Newsweek* magazine featured him with a cover story in April of 1980, and in 1981 *Musical America* pictured him as Musician of the Year on the cover of its *Directory of Music and Musicians*. Harvard, Yale, Brandeis, Roosevelt, Yeshiva and Hebrew universities are among the institutions, which have awarded him honorary degrees. President Reagan honored Perlman with a "Medal of Liberty" in 1986, and in December 2000, President Clinton awarded Perlman the "National Medal of Arts." In December 2003, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts will grant Itzhak Perlman a Kennedy Center Honor, celebrating his achievements and contributions to the performing arts. His presence on stage, on camera and in personal appearances of all kinds speaks eloquently on behalf of the disabled, and his devotion to their cause is an integral part of Perlman's life.

JANET GUGGENHEIM

Pianist **Janet Guggenheim** has given recitals throughout the world, both as a soloist and as a collaborative artist with the likes of Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Young Uck Kim, and many others. She was a member of the music faculty at UC Berkeley until 1995 and has the unique distinction of having been selected by cellist and humanitarian Pablo Casals as pianist for his master classes here, which were recorded and have been released on video. She also worked as studio pianist for renowned pedagogues Ivan Galamian, Dorothy DeLay, Joseph Fuchs and Leonard Rose. A longtime resident of the Bay Area, Guggenheim made her debut with the San Francisco Symphony at the age of 16 under the baton of Arthur Fiedler. Her current CD releases include The Complete Cello and Piano Works of Rachmaninov, with cellist Michael Grebanier (Naxos).

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for violinist **Itzhak Perlman** with pianist **Janet Guggenheim** in recital on **Sunday, January 18 at 3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced **\$34.00, \$48.00, \$72.00 and \$86.** 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, 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 the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, January 18 at 3:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Bancroft Way at College, Berkeley

Special Event

Itzhak Perlman, violin
Janet Guggenheim, piano

Program: TBD

Tickets: \$34.00, \$48.00, \$72.00 and \$86, 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.

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