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**THE JERUSALEM QUARTET PERFORM WORKS BY BEETHOVEN, MENDELSSOHN
AND SHOSTAKOVICH SUNDAY, MAY 7 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

BERKELEY, April 7, 2006 – Dynamic playing and high energy that characterize the award-winning **Jerusalem Quartet**'s concerts will be on display when they perform in Hertz Hall on **Sunday, May 7 at 3:00 p.m.** as the final chamber music program in Cal Performances' Centennial Season. The ensemble includes **Alexander Pavlovsky** (violin), **Sergei Bresler** (violin), **Amihai Grosz** (viola) and **Kyril Zlotnikov** (cello), and has been praised as "impeccable" (*London Daily Telegraph*), "highly talented" (*Neue Zürcher Zeitung*) and "magical" (*Der Tagespiegel*). "Musical electricity may be unfathomable, but one thing is for sure – they have it," wrote *The Strad*.

The concert will begin with **Ludwig van Beethoven**'s Quartet in B flat major, Op. 18, No. 6, much loved for its penultimate movement, "La Malinconia." This quartet is widely considered to be pivotal in Beethoven's career, signaling and foreshadowing his move from purely classical forms to music that is more abstract, transcendental and even mystical. Next will be **Felix Mendelssohn**'s Quartet in E flat major, Op. 12 – one of Mendelssohn's first string quartets, published in 1829. In it, the composer reflects on, and challenges some of the string quartet conventions of his day. The concert concludes with **Dmitri Shostakovich**'s Quartet No. 8 in C minor, Op. 110, famously written in three days in 1960 and dedicated to the victims of fascism and war. Considered the most autobiographical of Shostakovich's quartets, it was composed following a visit to Dresden and quotes extensively from many of the composer's earlier works.

JERUSALEM QUARTET

Founded in 1993 when the musicians were in their teens, the **Jerusalem Quartet** has risen to international prominence and high acclaim in its brief existence. The Quartet began

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within the framework of the Young Musicians' Unit of the Jerusalem Music Centre and the America-Israel Cultural Foundation, in cooperation with the Conservatory of the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance. The Quartet initially studied under Avi Abramovich.

The Jerusalem Quartet has garnered many awards, including the first Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award in 2003. In 2004, the Quartet performed concerts in London, the Vienna Konzerthaus and the Amsterdam Concertgebouw with Mitsuko Uchida. They were also part of the first ever BBC New Generation Artists program between 1999 and 2001, and received first prize and the award for the best interpretation of 20th-century music at the 1997 Franz Schubert and the Music of the 20th Century competition in Graz, Austria; they performed Kurtag's *Twelve Microludes* and the Bartók Quartet No. 6. They also won first prize at the Jerusalem Academy Chamber Music Competition in 1996.

The Quartet's discography includes a cover CD for *BBC Music Magazine* of Beethoven, Haydn and Shostakovich; a debut CD for EMI of works by Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky, released in 2001; and a CD of Haydn pieces for Harmonia Mundi released in 2004.

First violinist **Alexander Pavlovsky** was born in Kiev, Ukraine and studied piano and violin at the Tchaikovsky National Academy of Music before emigrating with his family to Israel in 1991. There he studied with Matvey Lieberman and Lazar Bendersky, and in 1994 began studies at the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance. He has performed as soloist with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the Kiev Chamber Orchestra, the Ludwigsburg Festival Orchestra, the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon LeZion and the Israel Camerata Jerusalem. Pavlovsky has won the Ilona Kornhauser award of the Jerusalem Music Centre, the Braun-Roger-Ziegel National Competition and the Young Artists' Competition of the Israel Broadcasting Authority's Classical Music Channel.

Sergei Bresler, second violin, was born in Ukraine in 1978 and, like his colleague Pavlovsky, immigrated to Israel in 1991 and studied with Matvey Lieberman. He graduated from the Young Musicians' Unit of the Jerusalem Music Centre, received the America-Israel Cultural Foundation, and won second prize at the Clairmont Competition for young violinists. He has performed as soloist with the Kharkov Symphony Orchestra, the Ludwigsburg Festival Orchestra and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

Amihai Grosz, viola, was born in Israel in 1979 and began viola studies at age 12 with David Line Chen at the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance. He is a graduate of the Young Musicians' Unit of the Jerusalem Music Centre and now studies with Tabea Zimmermann in Germany. In 1996 he won first prize at the Braun-Roger-Ziegel competition and has performed as soloist with the Ludwisburg Symphony, Jerusalem Symphony and Beershebe Symphony Orchestras. Grosz has appeared in chamber music concerts with Daniel Barenboim, Itamar Golan, Michael Tree and Emanuel Paued.

Cellist **Kyryl Zlotnikov** was born in Minsk, Belarus and began his musical studies there. He completed his musical education under Michael Khomitzer at the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance. He has won the Pierre Tarcali prize and awards at the Clairmont and Braun-Roger-Ziegel competitions. Zlotnikov was principal cellist under Daniel Barenboim on the Berlin Staatskapelle Orchestra's tour to the United States in 2003, and frequently participates in special projects with the orchestra.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Jerusalem Quartet** on **Sunday, May 7 at 3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$42.00**. 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

Sunday, May 7 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Chamber Music
Jerusalem Quartet

Program:

Beethoven/Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 18, No. 6, "La Malinconia"
Mendelssohn/Quartet in E-flat major, op. 12
Shostakovich/Quartet No. 8 in C minor, Op. 110

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; and at the door.

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