

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

CONTACT:
Lisle Peterson (510) 643-6714
lisle@calperfs.berkeley.edu
Stefanie Scott (510) 642-9121
sscott@calperfs.berkeley.edu

**CAL PERFORMANCES RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR WITH
ACCLAIMED PERUVIAN TENOR
JUAN DIEGO FLÓREZ
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2004 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, November 25, 2003 – Hailed “the Peruvian claimant to the *bel canto* crown” (*The New York Times*), acclaimed tenor **Juan Diego Flórez** will perform in recital for one night only on **Tuesday, January 6, 2004 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall, the first concert on Cal Performances’ schedule in 2004. Returning to Berkeley after his sold-out West Coast recital debut last June, the celebrated young opera star will be joined by pianist **Vincenzo Scalerà** in a program that illuminates Flórez considerable talents, and includes: **Schubert’s** “Guarda che bianca luna”; **Beethoven’s** “Adelaide”; **Mozart’s** “Ridente la calma”, K152, and “Si spande al sole in faccia” from *Il re pastore*; **Rossini’s** “Che ascolto, ohime” from *Otello*; **Rosa Mercedes Ayarza de Morales’** “Malhaya” and “Hasta la guitarra llora”; **Massenet’s** “Ouvre tes yeux bleus”; **Bizet’s** “Ouvre ton coeur”; and **Donizetti’s** “Allegro io sono” from *Rita*.

JUAN DIEGO FLÓREZ

“He came, he saw, he conquered. We came, we listened, we were overwhelmed,” trumpeted the *Oakland Tribune* upon **Juan Diego Florez’s** premier West Coast recital in Hertz Hall in June 2003. Widely acclaimed for his crisp, vivid coloratura and expert ornamentation, **Juan Diego Flórez** was born in 1973 in Lima, Peru, and began studying music with his father, Peruvian folkloric singer Ruben Flórez, at an early age. The young Flórez enjoyed learning the musical traditions of his country, with tastes extending to popular rock, and romantic and political ballads. He studied at the Lima Conservatory until the age of 20 and continued at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. As the school’s only tenor, Flórez was thrust onto the stage where he gathered immense theatrical experience. There, he fell under the tutelage of fellow Peruvian émigré Ernesto Palacio, who helped him discover where his vocal strengths lay. In August 1996 Flórez made his official debut in *Matilde di Shabram*, stepping into the role of

-MORE-

Corradino at the 11th hour for an indisposed Bruce Ford at the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro, Italy. Proclaimed that season's exciting new discovery, Flórez quickly developed a successful international career and is no longer considered a promising new-comer, but rather one of the most fluid and remarkable *bel canto* tenors in the world today.

Flórez has enjoyed great success on such opera stages as La Scala (*Armide, Falstaff, Cappello di Paglia di Firenze, Barbiere di Siviglia, Nina Pazza per Amore, La Sonnambula*); Covent Garden (*Elisabetta, Otello, Cenerentola*); The Met (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*); Vienna's Konzerthaus (*La Semiramide*); the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro (*Matilde di Shabram, Il Signor Bruschino, Petite Messe Solennelle, La Cenerentola, Viaggio a Reims*); Regio di Torino (*La Sonnambula, Maria Stuarda*); Sevilla's La Maestranza (*Alahor in Granata*); Staatsoper of Wien (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Italiana in Algeri, Gianni Schicchi*); Opera di Roma (*Barbiere di Siviglia*); San Francisco Symphony (*Stabat Mater*) and San Francisco Opera (*La Cenerentola*); Bayerische Staatsoper (*Italiana in Algeri*); Gran Teatro del Liceo of Barcelona (*Stabat Mater*); Opera National de Paris (*Italiana in Algeri*); and Bilbao (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*).

He has sung under the batons of Riccardo Muti, Myung-Wun Chung, Neville Marriner, Riccardo Chailly, Gianluigi Gelmetti, Christophe Rousset, Carlo Rizzi, Claudio Scimone, Antonio Pappano, Alberto Zedda, Roberto Abbado, Ralf Weikert, and Daniele Gatti, and futures dates pair him with Sir John Eliot Gardiner and James Levine.

In April 2001 Juan Diego Flórez signed an exclusive contract with the Decca Music Group, releasing his debut recording of Rossini arias under Riccardo Chailly in 2002. Flórez's second album, released in April 2003, features works by the other two great *bel canto* composers, Bellini and Donizetti. This recent recording includes favorites like the title track, "Una furtiva lagrima" from Donizetti's popular *L'Elisir D'Amore*, and the exuberant aria "Ah! Mes Amis" from Donizetti's *La Fille Du Regiment*.

VINCENZO SCALERA

A native of Maplewood, New Jersey, pianist **Vincenzo Scalera** began piano studies at age five. He graduated from the Manhattan School of Music and worked as assistant conductor

with the New Jersey State Opera. He continued his studies in Italy, and in 1980 joined the musical staff of Milan's Teatro alla Scala as coach and pianist, assisting conductors Claudio Abbado, Riccardo Chailly, Giannandrea Gavazzeni and Carlos Kleiber, among others. Scalera has participated in many important music festivals, including Edinburgh, Martina Franca, Jerusalem, Istanbul, Les Choregies d'Orange, Carinthscher Sommer Ossiach, and the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro.

Accompanying such celebrated singers as Carlo Bergonzi, Montserrat Caballé, José Carreras, Leyla Geneer, Raina Kabaivanska, Katia Ricciarelli, Renata Scotto, Cesare Siepi, Lucia Valentini Terrani, Leontina Vaduva, Sumi Jo, Giuseppe Sabbatini, and Marcello Giordani, Vincenzo Scalera has been heard in all of the major music centers of the world, and has become one of the most sought-after recital accompanists. Future engagements include recitals with Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu.

Scalera's discography includes such recitals as *Renata Scotto in the Complete Songs of Verdi*, *Carlo Bergonzi in Concert*, and *Carlo Bergonzi in the Art of Belcanto-Canzone*. Scalera has also recorded three recitals on video with José Carreras: *In Vienna*, *In Concert*, and *Comeback Recital in Spain*. Documenting his extensive collaboration with Carlo Bergonzi is a video concert entitled *Bergonzi Celebrates Gigli*, the program they performed together in the highly acclaimed 1985 Carnegie Hall recital. As a harpsichordist, he recorded the sound track of the video for Rossini's *Il Viaggio a Reims*, also with Abbado. Since 1997, Scalera has been on the staff of the Renata Scotto Opera Academy in Savona, Italy, teaching classes in accompanying and operatic literature.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for tenor **Juan Diego Flórez** on **Tuesday, January 6, 2004** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$32.00**, **\$42.00** and **\$56.00**. 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.

###

San Francisco Chronicle, *San Francisco* magazine, and KDFC Classical 102.1 FM are season media sponsors of Cal Performances' 2003/04 performing arts season.

All Cal Performances programs are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Cal Performances gratefully acknowledges The Shenson Foundation for its generous support of the 2003/04 Recital Series.

###

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Tuesday, January 6, 2004 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Recital

Juan Diego Flórez, tenor
Vincenzo Scalera, piano

Program:

Schubert/"Guarda che bianca luna"

Beethoven/"Adelaide"

Mozart/"Ridente la calma", K152; and "Si spande al sole in faccia"
from *Il re pastore*

Rossini/"Che ascolto, ohime" from *Otello*

de Morales/"Malhaya" and "Hasta la guitarra llora"

Massenet/"Ouvre tes yeux bleus"

Bizet/"Ouvre ton coeur"

Donizetti/"Allegro io sono" from *Rita*

Tickets: \$32.00, \$42.00 and \$56.00 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.