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**CAL PERFORMANCES AWARDED AT&T SPONSORSHIP
FOR THE 2003 PRESENTATION OF THE ACCLAIMED
KIROV BALLET & ORCHESTRA OF THE MARIINSKY THEATRE**

BERKELEY, September 3, 2003 – Cal Performances is pleased to announce sponsorship from **AT&T** for the 2003 presentation of the world-famous **Kirov Ballet and Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre**. The North American tour of the Kirov Ballet and Orchestra, occurring this year in honor of the 300th anniversary of the city of St. Petersburg, begins at Cal Performances and marks the first time the Ballet and Orchestra have toured together to the West Coast. Led opening night by Artistic Director and conductor **Valery Gergiev**, the dancers and musicians of the Mariinsky Theatre will perform Mikhail Fokine's *Chopiniana*, *Scheherazade*, and *The Firebird* (Program I, October 7-9) and Balanchine's *Jewels* in its entirety (Program II, October 10-12).

“AT&T has been a generous corporate supporter of Cal Performances since 1988,” comments **Robert Cole**, Director of Cal Performances. “AT&T has supported several major projects, including John Adams’ 1995 opera *I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I Saw the Sky*, the world premiere of *Nur Du* by Pina Bausch in 1996, and 2002’s presentation of another of the world’s leading ballet companies, the Bolshoi. The Kirov Ballet has not been in the Bay Area since 1991—and this year they will appear in tandem with the renowned Kirov Orchestra. AT&T’s generosity has been critical in allowing this incredible tour to begin here in Berkeley.”

Dennis Sherwood, Sales Center Vice President at AT&T adds “AT&T is proud to continue our longstanding support of Cal Performances with this year’s production of the Kirov Ballet and Orchestra. Our relationship with Cal Performances has helped us build great relationships with our business customers and community leaders while supporting arts programs in the local communities where we live and work.”

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THE HISTORY OF THE KIROV BALLET AND ORCHESTRA OF THE MARIINSKY THEATRE

The history of the Kirov Ballet and Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre dates back to 1783, when Catherine the Great ordered an impressive stone theater to be built in the Second Admiralteisky district of St. Petersburg, to take the place of a wooden structure that served as a performance space for artistic events. The theater opened in 1783 with a performance of Paisiello's *Il Mondo della Luna*, and at that time was considered one of the finest theaters in Europe. It was reconstructed once in 1802 by Jean-François Thomas de Thomon and then again in 1836 by Albert Cavos. Ten years later, fire destroyed the building and it was reconstructed primarily as a venue for musical performances, assuming the name Mariinsky Theatre (after Alexander II's wife Maria). The opera company of the former Bolshoi Theatre took up residence, soon followed by the ballet company. The building was enlarged and renovated in the 19th century on two separate occasions—first by architect Victor Schroeder and then by engineer N.V. Smirnov—and the resulting layout and splendid décor has remained mostly unchanged to this day. During World War II, more than 20 shells struck the building, but restoration was largely complete by 1944.

The history of St. Petersburg ballet in the 19th century was associated with the work of Charles Didelot, Jules Perrot, and Arthur Saint-Leon. In 1869, the position of principal ballet master was entrusted to Marius Petipa, who markedly raised the professional standards of the company, and produced such celebrated ballets as *Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, and *Raymonda* during his time with the company. Over the years the legacy of dancers that the Ballet of the Mariinsky Theatre is responsible for producing is awe-inspiring: Nijinsky, Gerdt, Legat and others around the turn of the century, and Natalia Makarova, Irina Gensler, Mikhail Baryshnikov and Rudolph Nureyev from the 1950s to the 1970s. Known for the better part this century as the Kirov Ballet (named in 1935 after the mayor of Leningrad, Sergei Kirov), the collapse of the Soviet Union at the end of 1991 saw many organizations reverting back to their pre-revolutionary (1917) titles. Thus the Kirov has changed back to the Ballet of the Mariinsky Theatre, though the company tends to use both names when traveling outside of Russia. The Theatre's artistic directors include Valery Gergiev (Artistic and General Director) and Makhar Vaziev (Ballet Director).

CAL PERFORMANCES

Cal Performances presents over 100 performances annually, bringing the work of traditional and non-traditional artists to Bay Area audiences, including artists such as **Mikhail Baryshnikov, Cecilia Bartoli, Mark Morris, Yo-Yo Ma, Merce Cunningham, Pina Bausch, Bill T. Jones, Peter Sellars, John Adams, and Lou Harrison;** and, such Bay Area artists as **Margaret Jenkins, Kronos Quartet, Joe Goode, Jon Jang, and Gamelan Sekar Jaya,** which has aided and encouraged their national touring. Cal Performances has been instrumental in facilitating the touring of large ensembles from abroad, and has hosted such esteemed companies as the **Grand Kabuki Theater of Japan, the Lyon Opera Ballet and Orchestra, the Berliner Ensemble, the Gate Theater of Dublin, Les Arts Florissants, Ballet Nacional de Cuba, Nederland Dans Theater, American Ballet Theatre** and the **Bolshoi Ballet,** among others.

Cal Performances annually programs as many free education and humanities programs as there are performances on stage in a calendar year. Based on the UC Berkeley campus, the institution is a conduit for artist-community interaction, where over 30,000 Bay Area residents participate in dynamic activities designed to foster meaningful relationships between the artist's work and the diverse communities served. These include: *SchoolTime*, which serves a vital part of public and private school education with specially scheduled, one-hour daytime performances by world-class performing artists on the Zellerbach Hall stage; "**Cal Performances in the Classroom,**" professional development workshops for teachers; **community programs,** such as free classes, workshops, lectures and symposia offered throughout the year in schools, senior centers, to cultural organizations and on the campus; and **AileyCamp,** a six-week camp combining dance instruction with personal development and creative communication classes, designed to develop self-esteem, self-discipline, and critical thinking skills in youths ages 11–14.

AT&T

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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, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

Cal Performances' presentation of the Kirov Ballet and Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre is sponsored by AT&T.

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CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Kirov Ballet & Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre
Tuesday-Friday, October 7-10 at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 11 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 12 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Program I: Tues. 10/7, Wed. 10/8 and Thurs. 10/9 at 8:00 p.m.

Chopiniana (1908 - revised by Agrippina Vaganova 1931): music by Chopin; choreography by Mikhail Fokine

Scheherazade (1910): music by Rimsky-Korsakov; choreography by Mikhail Fokine

The Firebird (1910): music by Stravinsky; choreography by Mikhail Fokine

Program II: Fri. 10/10 at 8:00 p.m., Sat. 10/11 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m., and Sun. 10/12 at 3:00 p.m.

Jewels (1967): music by Fauré, Stravinsky, and Tchaikovsky; choreography by George Balanchine

Tickets: \$42.00, \$62.00, \$92.00, and \$110.00, 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.